

Presented by: Hale, Weldon
Presented: 10/01/2020
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Emergency Appropriation Resolution Serial No. 2909 vESTF

An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating up to \$1,000,000 to the Manager for a COVID-19 Heating Fuel and Electricity Assistance Grant Program; Funding Provided by the CARES ACT Special Revenue Fund.

- A. WHEREAS, consistent with Charter 9.10(b), upon declaration by the Assembly that a public emergency exists and describing the emergency in clear and specific terms, the Assembly by resolution may make emergency appropriations upon approval by all Assemblymembers present or by seven of its membership, whichever is the lesser number; and
- B. WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is easily transmittable person to person; and
- C. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (“WHO”) declared the virus a pandemic; and
- D. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the State of Alaska declared a public health emergency in response to the anticipated outbreak of the virus in Alaska; and
- E. WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the virus pandemic; and
- F. WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Assembly declared a local emergency in response to COVID-19; and
- G. WHEREAS, on March 22, 2020, the City and Borough of Juneau (“CBJ”) received its first positive case of COVID-19 and continues to have multiple COVID-19 cases weekly; and
- H. WHEREAS, many people use their permanent fund dividends to fill heating fuel tanks just as winter sets in; and
- I. WHEREAS, because the dividends were issued in July and many people do not have the ability to save money for the fall and winter, particularly this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this program is necessary to provide for health and welfare of the community; and
- J. **FILL IN RELEVANT MATERIAL FOR PROGRAM**

- K. WHEREAS, heating fuel and electricity support for COVID-19 related costs is necessary due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and
- L. WHEREAS, heating fuel and electricity support for COVID-19 related costs was not accounted for in the FY20 budget; and
- M. WHEREAS, heating fuel and electricity support related to COVID-19 are incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Emergency Appropriation. There is appropriated to the Manager the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for an Emergency Heating Fuel and Electricity Assistance Program. This is an appropriation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021.

Section 2. Source of Funds:

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| CARES Act Special Revenue Fund | \$ 1,000,000.00 |
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Section 3. Emergency Utility Assistance Program Purpose and Terms. The program is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- (a) **Intent.** The intent of this grant program is to provide a simple application for financial support to people residing in the City and Borough of Juneau who have been financially harmed by COVID-19 and need assistance paying for heating fuel or, for those who heat with electricity, electrical costs.
- (b) **Administration.** The Grant Administrator is _____. The Manager is authorized to execute an agreement with the Grant Administrator for disbursement of COVID-19 Mortgage and Rental Assistance funds. The Grant Administrator is responsible for assuring the program funds are disbursed only to eligible applicants. The Grant Administrator shall be provided a reasonable administration fee based on actual expenses, which are anticipated to be around \$____,000. The Grant Administrator shall provide the Manager with program status reports at reasonable intervals. The Manager shall provide updates to the Finance Committee or Assembly. The Grant Administrator shall return all unencumbered monies existing on December 31, 2020, promptly back to the City and Borough of Juneau.
- (c) **Eligible Applicants.**
 - (1) **Individual residential units.** This program is only open to individuals and not businesses. Only one grant may be awarded per residential dwelling unit. The applicant must identify whether the dwelling unit is primarily heated by fuel oil, electricity, or other means.
 - (2) **Utility location.** The property receiving the heating fuel or electrical service must be located in the City and Borough of Juneau.
 - (3) **Income.** The household income must not exceed \$94,240. Proof of income can be evidenced by the most recent tax return or other reasonable and verifiable

information. The Grant Administrator shall not keep a copy of the income verification.

- (4) **COVID-19 financial hardship.** The applicant must describe how the applicant has been financially harmed by COVID-19.
- (5) **Utility costs.** The Grant Administrator will collect information about heating supplier accounts for the applicant's residence.
- (6) **Additional information.** The Grant Administrator may request additional information from applicants when the application contains insufficient or contradictory information or the Grant Administrator may deem the application incomplete. The Grant Administrator shall notify applicants of incomplete applications. Incomplete applications have three calendar days to cure to keep the original application filing date; otherwise the application is deemed complete on the date it is cured.

(d) Grants.

- a. **Amount.** The maximum grant amount per applicant is \$500.
 - b. **Payment Process.** The Grant Administrator shall send, or instruct the City and Borough of Juneau to send, the grant payments to the utility providers directly.
- (e) **Exceptions.** The Grant Administrator, after receiving direction from the Manager or designee, has the authority to make reasonable exceptions that match the intent of this grant program.
- (f) **Confidentiality.** Except as provided in this resolution, all application material submitted for this grant and all information contained therein shall be kept confidential except for inspection by:
- (1) Employees and agents of the City and Borough, including the Grant Administrator, whose job responsibilities are directly related to such applications and information;
 - (2) The applicant; and
 - (3) Court order.

However, nothing in this resolution shall be construed to provide confidentiality to the name of the applicant and the amount of grant award, if any.

- (g) **Priority.** Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. The Grant Administrator will continue to expend funds until funds are fully exhausted or until December 30, whichever occurs first.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of October, 2020.

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor