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- Increased costs for office reconfigurations/disinfection services for County buildings/facilities
- Network security enhancements
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies

Beyond County eligible expenses, the Board of Supervisors expressed interest in potentially using some of its CARES funding to assist small businesses and non-profits with their Covid-19 related needs at the special May 26 meeting. Based on this direction, County staff followed up with the sixteen California counties that have received their CRF allotment, researching those who proposed a similar non-County Covid assistance program, including Fresno, Kern, Orange, San Diego and Ventura counties. While many details are works in progress at this writing, staff conferred with Ventura County, whose primary economic sectors are comparable to Placer County's in the areas of healthcare, services, and tourism – all industries significantly impacted by the Covid-related economic downturn.

U.S. Treasury Department guidance allows uses of CRF funds for “necessary expenditures” such as direct costs to address medical/public health needs and secondary costs such as providing economic support to those businesses negatively impacted by the Covid-19 public health emergency.

Predicated on the Ventura County example, staff proposes a non-County grant program for small businesses and non-profits with the remaining CARES funding, estimated at \$8 million. Elements of this program include the following:

- Grant funding for eligible Covid expenses, consistent with U.S. Treasury guidance
- Defined metrics for need to inform allocation structure and implementation
- Program administration in partnership with knowledgeable third parties with longstanding experience in the areas of small business/non-profit public outreach, community networks and grant expertise. Similar to Ventura, this will help Placer County disburse funding at a lower cost, contracting out costs to administer grants, distribute awards and coordinate any requisite funding follow-up activities, including federal reporting on the use of funds
- Grant awards estimated in the \$10,000 range to allow for a broader distribution of CARES resources where needed
- Pending community interest, potential use of a lottery system for grant awards
- Consideration of future rounds of funding should additional federal resources be made available

Preliminary discussions have begun with potential third-party administrators including the Sierra Small Business Council, the Placer Community Foundation and the Tahoe/Truckee Community Foundation. Further details will be developed as more is learned on the scope of small business/non-profit funding needs in our Placer County communities, research which will inform the scope and parameters of our proposed grant program. Once determined, staff will report back to the BOS for review/approval of any agreements required to implement this grant assistance program.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact from the proposed action as any expenses with administering the proposed non-County grant assistance program are an eligible expense to be covered by CARES funding.

