



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800

Seattle, WA 98104-1818

206-263-9600 Fax 206-296-0194

TTY Relay: 711

www.kingcounty.gov

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed emergency supplemental appropriation Ordinance that, if enacted, would authorize King County to continue to fund critical COVID-19 response efforts. The proposal proposes \$157 million in expenditures, which are primarily backed by federal and state revenue, as well as by a small contribution from the County's General Fund.

This is the ninth COVID-19 supplemental appropriation request I have transmitted to the King County Council. In March 2020, our Proclamation of Emergency in response to COVID-19 enabled us to enact extraordinary measures to fight the pandemic. The King County Council subsequently approved eight COVID-19 supplemental budget requests in 2020 and 2021, funding economic recovery efforts, community health and safety measures, and the County's response operations.

The most recent COVID-related budget was passed in July 2021 via Ordinance 19318, which appropriated \$389 million in federal, state, and county funding for COVID-19 response work. Ordinance 19318 appropriated King County's remaining Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) provided by the federal government, as well as funding for programs backed by other federal and state funding. Since 2020, King County has received approximately \$2.1 billion in COVID relief from the federal government, as well as additional contributions from the State.

This proposed ninth COVID-19 supplemental appropriates in three key areas:

- **Continues the County's COVID-19 response** by updating public health investments to continue key pandemic response operations, including costs to continue vaccination efforts and testing, and to maintain isolation and quarantine sites through June 2022.
- **Budgets \$85 million for rental assistance**, backed by already applied for federal funds, for residents behind in rent and utility payments due to COVID-19 hardships.
- **Provides resources to administer federal funds** for multiple County agencies to support operations. The Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget faces considerable

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compliance burdens and plans to divert a small amount of funds from some grants to help administer these grants, without additional appropriation.

Please note that these proposed appropriation requests continue to rely on cost estimates and may be revised. The County is actively seeking state and federal reimbursement for all COVID-19 related expenses. I anticipate that my proposed 2023-2024 budget will contain further adjustments and reappropriations based on updated information and funding.

In addition, this proposed Ordinance allocates General Fund resources to programs that have been deemed ineligible for federal funds or do not meet compliance and audit thresholds. Two programs have been disappropriated based on the outcome of a competitive request for proposal process and based on much lower costs that originally anticipated. Lastly, the Ordinance proposes technical adjustments to expenditure restrictions and includes a proviso date change.

The County continues to closely monitor the status of Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) reimbursement. FEMA reimbursement to King County is expected for much of our isolation and quarantine, testing, and vaccination work, as well as for certain elements of the shelter deintensification work.

As with the prior COVID supplemental budget, all programs supported by federal funds are subject to legal review to ensure that the programs are eligible for federal funds. Before any funds are expended, and in accordance with the fiscal stewardship goals, the County will take the following steps: conduct a comprehensive assessment of program eligibility; verify that anticipated expenditures are appropriate; assess whether a competitive procurement process is required; conduct a risk assessment; and complete the contracting process.

This work furthers the King County Strategic Plan health and human services goal to improve the health and well-being of people in our community.

I certify that funds are available.

Thank you for your partnership and consideration of this proposed Ordinance. If your staff have questions, please contact Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

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cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget