FISCAL NOTE COVID-19 Supplemental

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Title: COVID-19 Food Security Program

Agency: Public Health

Summary: Adds supplemental appropriation to provide vouchers to eligible residents to purchase food and strengthen and expand the infrastructure of the existing emergency food system. Eligibility for vouchers would be based upon screening for food insecurity using the validated Hunger Vital Sign questionnaire. Funds would be used for contracts with community organizations and support one position for six months.

	2019-2020	2021-2022	2023-2024
FEDERAL GRANTS INDIRECT (R3330)	4,830,000		
Total Revenue	4,830,000	-	-
SERVICES-OTHER CHARGES (53000)	4,750,000		
WAGES AND BENEFITS (51000)	80,000		
Total Expenditure	4,830,000	-	-
Net Impact	-	-	-
Total TLT	-	-	

The evidence of need to support food security is clear. Before COVID-19, 11% of King County adults experienced food insecurity, and 26.5% of parents and caregivers with young children said it was hard to afford basics like food. During the 2008 recession, the number of people visiting King County food banks increased by over 72,000 people, a 30% increase compared to 2007; the number of people visiting food banks continued to increase through 2009 and 2010 before starting to trend downward in 2011, indicating that the increased need for food may extend over a prolonged recovery period.

Food banks and meal programs serving vulnerable populations are experiencing a surge in demand that has created a strain on their capacity. Community agencies operating emergency food programs report a need for additional staff to distribute food; fresh produce and protein; drivers and vehicles to transport food; and more storage capacity.

Note Prepared By: Drew Pounds Date Prepared: 6/3/2020

Note Reviewed By: Kapena Pflum Date Reviewed: 6/8/2020