



King County

Dow Constantine

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June 17, 2021

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 includes over \$200 million in revenue-backed expenditures.

This is the eighth 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 seven COVID-19 supplemental budget requests in 2020 and 2021, funding economic recovery efforts, community health and safety measures, and the County's response operations. As you know, last month, the Council passed Ordinance 19289, the seventh COVID-19 supplemental budget which appropriated \$632 million in federal, state, and county funding for COVID-19 response work.

The proposed Ordinance would appropriate the remaining \$70 million in Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) after the passage of Ordinance 19289, as well as other federal and state funding.

This proposed eighth COVID-19 supplemental invests in four key areas:

- **Continues the County's COVID-19 response** by readjusting public health investments in order to continue key pandemic response operations, while ramping down other services to meet evolving community need, including closeout costs for isolation and quarantine sites and hotels which served community throughout the pandemic.
- **Dedicates \$18 million for community supports** by investing in a more resilient and equitable economy, connecting underrepresented and dislocated workers to in-demand

job opportunities, creating community engagement capacity in BIPOC organizations, investing in culturally appropriate services for rideshare workers, and providing support for immigrant communities who have not been able to access federal benefits.

- **Allocates over \$90 million** for rental assistance, utilizing federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds.
- **Supports County service delivery** through investments which support necessary operational adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Provides additional resources for the criminal legal system** to begin addressing the backlog of criminal and civil cases that have built up over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that these proposed appropriation requests rely on initial estimates of costs, which may be revised. The County is actively seeking state and federal reimbursement for all COVID-19 related expenses.

As with the 7th COVID supplemental budget, all programs supported by federal funds will go through legal analyses to ensure that the programs are eligible for federal funds. Currently, these federal funds can currently be used for four broad categories:

1. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, or aid to industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality.
2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work.
3. For the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue due to the public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the county prior to the emergency.
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

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; design the procurement process; conduct a risk assessment; and complete the contracting process. Each of these steps may result in required adjustments to the approved programs. These steps will impact how quickly the County can implement these programs.

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

I certify that funds are available.


The Honorable Claudia Balducci

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As COVID-19 recovery needs in the region evolve, our continued collaboration with community will allow King County to address community concerns, focus on where needs are greatest, support new economic growth, and continue to cultivate a dynamic and effective workforce. 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

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget