


**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE MEMORANDUM
#28-2020**

DATE: May 11, 2020
TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members
THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager 
FROM: Rupa Venkatesh, Assistant to the City Manager
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Response – Community Investments

PURPOSE

To provide City Council with a summary of the brainstorming session that Council conducted during the May 4, 2020 study session. The purpose of the brainstorming session was to generate ideas of how to utilize funding the City will receive from Adams County as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) that can be used for expenditures related to COVID-19 response as outlined by the US Treasury. However, because the guidance on what is considered as eligible expenses under CARES is still unclear, we want to give Council the opportunity to provide and prioritize what they deem as important to the City and the community as we continue to respond to the coronavirus pandemic.

BACKGROUND

The City of Northglenn will be receiving \$3,086,617 in CARES Act funds from Adams County per the IGA the City Council approved at the May 5, 2020 Special Meeting. City Council may choose to fund agreed upon community investments through use of General Fund reserves if they are not eligible for CARES Act funding.

Community Input

Per Council direction, staff is seeking community input from Northglenn residents on how they would like City Council to use our allocated CARES Act funding using the Open Town Hall feature on our website (www.northglenn.org/covidinput). General guidelines of eligible and ineligible uses are given as well as a link to the full presentation from the May 4, 2020 Council meeting. Staff is soliciting this feedback by prominently displaying it on the City's website, through social media channels, and asking for help from Council to promote it amongst their networks. Employee feedback has also been requested as well. This feature was launched on May 6, 2020. Any feedback we receive will be included in an updated memorandum on Monday, May 11, 2020 for use in Council discussion.

City Council Brainstorm Prioritization

Attachment 1 contains a comprehensive list of ideas that Council came up with including staff recommendations from City Manager's Office Memorandum #26-2020. Each idea has been categorized by type:

1. Public Health
2. Internal City Expenses
3. Education
4. Support for Businesses
5. Support for Community Organizations
6. Support for Residents

Council will have the opportunity to add to the brainstorm list and to ask any clarification questions. Council will then prioritize items per category. The top ideas in each category will be researched further to provide Council with an update at the June 1, 2020 study session.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends City Council discuss and prioritize their ideas for staff to research the top priorities in each category.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

Budget implications for the prioritized list of ideas will not be known until staff has the opportunity to further research each idea. In addition, we hope to get further clarification from the US Treasury to help understand which items will most likely be an eligible expense under the CARES Act.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have questions or comments, they may contact Heather Geyer, City Manager, at hgeyer@northglenn.org or 303.450.8706.

ATTACHMENTS

1. City Council Brainstorm Session – May 4, 2020
2. COVID-19 – Input on Northglenn Resident Needs Report



May 11, 2020

City Council Brainstorming Session – May 4, 2020

The purpose of the brainstorming session was to generate ideas of how to utilize funding the City will receive from Adams County as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) that can be used for expenditures related to COVID-19 response as outlined by the US Treasury.

During that session, Council came up with the below ideas. Because guidance on eligible expenses through the CARES Act is being further developed, we do not want to limit Council's ability to prioritize any ideas that Council deems as important to the City and community. Council should have the opportunity to prioritize ideas based on what is important to them, not on the current limited guidance from the US Treasury. Prioritizing ideas in each category will provide direction to staff for which items need further research.

Ideas in blue have been submitted by the community via Open Town Hall.

1. Public Health

- COVID-19 testing, including serological testing
 - Focus the funds on testing and at risk groups - elderly, homeless, unemployed, pre-existing conditions
- Providing disinfection supplies
- Hand washing stations at parks
- Hand sanitizer available in public areas
- PPE needs at the senior living areas
- Testing facilities – potentially partnering with other cities for testing facilities
- Providing masks to all residents
- Providing child-size masks

2. Internal City Expenses

- Paid sick and family leave to public employees to enable compliance with public health precautions
- Payroll expenses for public safety employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating and responding to the public health emergency.
- Repurposing Parks & Rec staff to childcare workers
- Reserve some funding to address needs during a second wave in Aug/Sept/Oct
- One other option that might not be as favorable in the community would be to give every city employee that worked through the virus an extra two weeks of paid vacation.
- Take care of your staff so they can take care of the city and keep providing services. Maybe hazard pay for 1st responders as other neighbor city have.
- Reopening the dog park

3. Education

- Education campaign regarding public health/safe use of masks
- Education materials for non-English speaking residents

- Telework needs
 - Reserve some funding for messaging over the course of the year
4. Support for Businesses
- Small nonprofit grant program
 - Push out information about businesses that are food based
 - Small business assistance
 - It should be used to support locally owned businesses that have been affected by the virus. A grant program with a maximum amount allowed would work the best.
 - Local assistance for basic necessities would be a good idea.
 - Cover delivery fees for restaurants to encourage people to utilize Northglenn businesses
 - \$25 coupon/voucher to each household that would be good for use at any Northglenn business. The business would then turn in the voucher to the City for credit against their city utility bill or a sales/use tax credit.
5. Support for Community Organizations
- Supporting Adams 12 Five Star Schools District
 - Supporting Adams 12 food pick-up during summer months
 - Supporting food banks
 - Help with rent and aid to food banks.
 - Creating small food banks that are similar to the little libraries stations
 - Meals on Wheels Program
 - Providing a grant to the Northglenn Community Foundation to assist residents with utility payments
6. Support for Residents
- Community garden
 - Emergency Utility Financial Assistance
 - Suspending utility payments for a month
 - Grant program to assist residents with rent/mortgage payments
 - It would be an immense help if the funds could be used for residents of Northglenn AND THORNTON to go towards rental & mortgage assistance, utilities, and emergency food assistance.
 - Help with rent and aid to food banks.
 - Local assistance for basic necessities would be a good idea.
 - Used for services people will need to actually function in order to return to work: housing, food, water, electric, internet, safety.
 - Safe-to-sleep location for homeless people sleeping in their vehicles
 - Childcare for residents due to closed schools
 - Helping residents who have lost relatives in Northglenn or those who tested positive for COVID-19
 - Engaging residents this summer with fun activities

COVID-19 - Input on Northglenn Resident Needs

May 11, 2020, 11:44 AM

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COVID-19 - Input on Northglenn Resident Needs

What would help you/your family/your business through the hardships caused by COVID-19? Northglenn City Council would like to hear from residents to help guide use of CARES Act federal funding allocated to the City of Northglenn from Adams County.

Summary Of Registered Statements

As of May 11, 2020, 11:44 AM, this forum had:		Topic Start
Attendees:	44	May 5, 2020, 1:13 PM
Registered Statements:	10	
Minutes of Public Comment:	30	

COVID-19 - Input on Northglenn Resident Needs

What would help you/your family/your business through the hardships caused by COVID-19? Northglenn City Council would like to hear from residents to help guide use of CARES Act federal funding allocated to the City of Northglenn from Adams County.

Individual Registered Statements

Diana Wilson

May 7, 2020, 12:32 PM

One idea -- \$25 (or more) coupon to each household that would be good for use at any Northglenn business. No change -- purchase would have to be \$25 (or more and pay the difference). This would give a little help to those that need it for food or haircut or whatever, and also support businesses. Businesses could turn in the coupons and get credit against their city utility bill or a sales/use tax credit.

susan clyne

May 9, 2020, 3:09 PM

Help with rent and aid to food banks.

Keely Garcia

May 9, 2020, 3:41 PM

Focus the funds on testing and at risk groups - elderly, homeless, unemployed, pre-existing conditions, etc. Applying a blanket mandate to all people isn't the solution - the majority of people are not at risk of death even if they get COVID19. Open all the businesses, maintain social distancing or Max capacity measures.

Jeremy Roland

May 9, 2020, 4:28 PM

The best use for this money is not giving it to any individuals to pay their bills. It should be used to support locally owned businesses that have been affected by the virus. A grant program with a maximum amount allowed would work the best.

One other option that might not be as favorable in the community would be to give every city employee that worked through the virus an extra two weeks of paid vacation.

Anonymous Employee

May 9, 2020, 5:11 PM

Don't let the city fall apart by not taking care of yourself first. This is not selfish, dumb, or corrupt. Its like taking a flight where they give instructions to put your mask on first before putting masks on others. Take care of your staff so they can take care of the city and keep providing services. Don't be like the meat companies. Maybe hazard pay for 1st responders as other neighbor city have. Don't use the money to buy votes.

Amber Talley

May 9, 2020, 5:38 PM

It would be an immense help if the funds could be used for residents of Northglenn AND THORNTON to go towards rental & mortgage assistance, utilities, and emergency food assistance. Even though there are federal programs available it is taking forever for people to even receive any of those funds. I am self employed and speaking from my personal experience. I haven't been able to receive any relief yet even though I have applied to numerous programs. As a single mother of two, I've been out of work since March 13th and barely getting by.

1 Supporter

Sarah Puckett

May 9, 2020, 9:52 PM

I feel there are a lot of families struggling to pay basic bills and also SMALL local businesses as well that could use the assistance. Local assistance for basic necessities would be a good idea.

Leah Goetz

May 10, 2020, 12:10 AM

First, 3 million is not enough. And it seems wise that much of this money be used for services people will need to actually function in order to return to work: housing, food,

COVID-19 - Input on Northglenn Resident Needs

What would help you/your family/your business through the hardships caused by COVID-19? Northglenn City Council would like to hear from residents to help guide use of CARES Act federal funding allocated to the City of Northglenn from Adams County.

water, electric, internet, safety. I think you need a community evaluation to determine where the top 3 greatest needs lie and invest in those systems for both acute and longitudinal citizen needs. For example, a Northglenn resident can't pay the water bill, there could be a fund that the resident could apply to for help. A fund that other residents could contribute to as well. Food insecurity should be tackled aggressively. Our social determinants of health account for about 40% of our overall health. Anything that is a requirement for functioning has to be invested in for stability and sustainability.

JENNIFER Wirick

May 10, 2020, 11:26 AM

What would really help us is reopening the dog park. Parks in other communities are open and people are being safe. Dogs who have been in quarantine are becoming frustrated and aggressive with housemates. They need their doggie community to maintain good social skills. Can anyone give us all an ETA instead of keeping us in the dark?

Deborah Kong

May 11, 2020, 11:22 AM

With a population of about 40,000, that \$3M comes to about \$75 per person. I like the \$25 coupon idea to generate income for local businesses. The rest can be used for COVID-19 testing and emergency food services.