CARES Act Relief Fund Success Story

Mayor Keller and City leaders worked closely with the New Mexico Congressional Delegation and Mayors nationwide to make sure Albuquerque and other major cities received direct funding from the CARES Act, passed in March of 2020. $150 million was allocated to the City, along with guidance from the Treasury Department that it could be used broadly in support of COVID relief efforts.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

The City invested significantly in caring for Albuquerque residents who were vulnerable to falling through the cracks of the recovery and supporting small businesses that suffered financial hits during the pandemic.

MAJOR PROJECT & PROGRAMS

- Business Economic Support (1,740 small business grants, $10,700,000)
- Food Assistance for Vulnerable Populations (89,025 individuals served, $691,915)
- Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention (1,513 individuals aided, $748,807)
- Non-Profit Economic Support (42 non-profit grants, $992,462)
- Direct Payments to Artists impacted by COVID-19 (135 artist organizations assisted, $627,973)
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Small Businesses ($1,118,116)

CITY RESPONSE

The city focused much of the funding on shifting employees from jobs that were limited by the pandemic into roles directly related to supporting the community in crisis. Using city workers for direct COVID response also helped avoid mass layoffs or furloughs that risked further negative economic effects. Overall, employees across 20 city departments were shifted into COVID response roles.

The City of Albuquerque used all $150 million it received in federal CARES Act Relief funding by the original end of year deadline set by Congress. Priorities for use of the funds included shoring up the safety net for seniors, workers living paycheck-to-paycheck, and the homeless, as well as preventing the bottom from falling out of the local economy as local businesses endured shutdowns and restrictions.
The City of Albuquerque used federal CARES Act funding to keep City employees working, avoiding layoffs and furloughs; to provide essential services to the most vulnerable in our community, helping people make it through the pandemic; and to provide swift response to the COVID pandemic.

**MAJOR PROJECT & PROGRAMS**

- Emergency Operations Center
- Communications of Public Health Orders
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Cleaning Supplies and Services
- Telework Capabilities
- Care and Shelter for Homeless in Compliance with Public Health Measures

**CHANGING ROLES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES**

- Community Center employees went from hosting summer camps to providing essential workers with child care options when they had to continue going to work
- Senior Center employees pivoted from their regular programs, leading social events in senior centers, to setting up a network that distributed more than half a million meals and conducted regular wellness checks
- Economic Development staff shifted into managing more than $10 million in grants and other support programs to help small businesses stay afloat

*—Mayor Tim Keller*

*—Mona Ghattas, Owner/President of Duran’s Central Pharmacy*