

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Community & Fiscal Projects

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor *JCB*
Tyson Cox, Assembly Member *TRC*
Hal Smalley, Assembly Member *JB*

FROM: Brenda Ahlberg, Community & Fiscal Projects Manager *Bl*
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director *BH*

DATE: October 1, 2020

RE: Resolution 2020-070, Amending the Spending Plan for Cares Act Coronavirus Relief Funds Received from the State of Alaska and Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into Grant or Other Agreements with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to Administer a Housing Relief Program (Mayor, Cox, Smalley)

This resolution would amend the borough's Coronavirus Relief Fund Spending Plan most recently approved in R2020-069. The amended plan addresses two budget revisions to provide funds for the following projects:

1. To provide individual housing grants for mortgage and rent relief to qualifying borough residents in the areas outside of the cities who are experiencing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency in partnership with Alaska Housing Financing Corporation (AHFC) the administrator of the housing relief program.

This resolution will also authorize the mayor to enter into a grant agreement and other necessary agreements with AHFC to effectuate this program. AHFC will develop the website, application portal, and provide for a verification process without charging an administrative fee. This housing relief program will largely mirror the eligibility criteria and programs that the cities of Kenai, Soldotna, and Kachemak have partnered with the AHFC to administer. AHFC administered the Alaska Housing Relief Program earlier this summer, which provided up to \$1,200 for each eligible household to assist with housing costs, payable directly to their lender or landlord. The same eligibility criteria and requirements from AHFC's Alaska Housing Relief Program will apply to the borough's housing relief program. There is a community need for additional housing support which may only

continue to grow as this health emergency extends into the winter. This resolution authorizes an "up to" amount of \$2,000,000 available for this program transferred from CAR21.

2. To provide a set aside amount for potential use as direct assistance to non-profit organizations that have organized homeless programs.

Approval is sought at this time due to the fast approaching winter and the fact that the next Assembly meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2020. Section 3 of this resolution provides that unused funds allocated for the purposes of this housing relief program may be repurposed to provide assistance to non-profit organizations that have established homeless or temporary housing programs up to a total assistance amount of \$200,000 per grantee.

Your consideration of this resolution is appreciated.

Attachment: Coronavirus Relief Fund Spending Plan Proposed for Amendment (AHFC-10/01/20)