



Contra Costa County

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NEWS RELEASE
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Board of Supervisors Approves \$4.29 Million of Community Development Block Grant Funding to Provide Emergency Rental Assistance and Tenant/Landlord Counseling and Legal Services

(Martinez, CA) – On November 17, 2020, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an amendment to the County's Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan to allocate an additional \$4,292,960 in CDBG-Coronavirus or CV3 funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 to provide emergency rental assistance and tenant/landlord counseling and related legal services.

The Board action will provide CDBG-CV3 funds for the following: \$3.2 million for an emergency rental assistance program, \$600,000 for tenant/landlord counseling and related legal services, and \$492,960 to the County's Department of Conservation and Development for general program administration.

"The County must act quickly to assist residents, both tenants and landlords, who are or will be in crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Board Chair, Supervisor Candace Andersen. "Providing direct rental payments to landlords on behalf of tenants is critical, and staff will work with community organizations to reach out to those in need, particularly low-income households and neighborhoods severely impacted by economic and housing instability at this difficult time."

All funds are provided to Contra Costa County through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's CARES Act funding to eligible CDBG grantees. As a grantee, Contra Costa County was awarded an additional \$4,292,960 in CDBG-Coronavirus funds. The Board awarded other CDBG funds for rental assistance and tenant/landlord counseling and related legal services earlier this year. The CV3 funds may be used to prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to the COVID-19 epidemic and its impacts.

HUD has targeted CDBG-CV3 funds towards jurisdictions with households facing higher risk of eviction and has indicated that these funds can be used to provide temporary financial assistance to meet rental obligations of low-income households that are struggling to meet their monthly rental obligations. The CDBG-CV3 funds may also be used to provide legal services in connection with tenant/landlord counseling services.

For more information, reference the 11/17/2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting [Agenda item D.4](#). More information will be available to the general public soon through the programs.

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