

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date:	March 15, 2021
Action Required:	Report
Presenter:	Kaki Dimock, Director, Human Services
Staff Contacts:	Kaki Dimock, Director, Human Services
Title:	Open Society Foundation Emma Lazarus Campaign on Cities Grant Final Report

Background:

On July 20, 2020, City Council appropriated \$300,000 to use as emergency relief for community members ineligible for the Federal CARES stimulus checks. \$250,000 was appropriated from a grant to the Department of Human Services, in coordination with Albemarle County Office of Equity and Inclusion, from the Emma Lazarus Campaign on Cities, a project of the Open Society Foundation. An additional \$50,000 was previously appropriated from the Department of Human Services fund balance in support of grant activities.

Discussion:

With assistance from the city's finance department and treasurer's office, 600 prepaid VISA cards in the amount of \$500 were purchased for distribution to individuals who were ineligible for the Federal stimulus checks due to their status as migrant, immigrant, undocumented or domestic workers. Recognizing that 600 cards was insufficient to provide relief to all members of the community of our community that would be eligible, individuals were prioritized for relief based on three additional criteria:

- Severe economic need
- Presence of children under 18 years of age in the household
- Medical vulnerability

Community providers with existing relationships with individuals likely to meet eligibility requirements were recruited to distribute cards. These agencies included Sin Barreras, Cville Cares, Piedmont Virginia Community College, International Neighbors, International Rescue Committee, Child Health Partnership, Charlottesville Department of Human Services and Habitat for Humanity.

Community members receiving this financial assistance reported compounded need and medical vulnerabilities. They self identified as:

72.4% - immigrant

37.6% - domestic worker

15.9%- migrant worker
3.8%- undocumented worker

93% of recipient households included children under 18 years of age
74% of recipient households reported severe economic risk
20% of recipient households included someone with medical vulnerability

79% Hispanic/Latinx
7.4% Asian
5.5% Black
3.8% White
3.1% Multiple ethnicities/races
1.2% Native American/Indigenous

Community Engagement:

City and county staff met regularly with service providers focused on improving the well-being of undocumented, immigrant, migrant and domestic workers to ensure that implementation could be achieved in partnership. Decisions around data collection, screening criteria, and government engagement were informed by community service providers with direct knowledge of the needs, conditions, and fears of the targeted population.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan:

This grant advances the City of Charlottesville's Strategic Plan Goal #1 of an inclusive community of self-sufficient residents.

Budgetary Impact:

N/A.

Recommendation:

N/A

Alternatives:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A