

County of Hidalgo §  
State of Texas §

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
DIRECTING COUNTY CARES ACT FUNDS  
TO ASSIST WITH ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO RESIDENTS**

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is made on this 29th day of Sept. 2020 by and between the COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS (“COUNTY”), and CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY (“CCRGV”), with its principal office located at 700 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd., San Juan, TX.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 418.108, Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency on March 17, 2020, due to the imminent threat arising from the Coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 22, 2020, the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County issued an Order of Continuance of Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the safety, health and general welfare of the citizens of Hidalgo County is a common objective of both parties. Further, it is the objective of both parties to collaborate with each other to ensure the citizens of Hidalgo County have access to food, shelter and other resources necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to, protections for senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health emergency precautions; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about March 27, 2020, the Federal Government passed the Coronavirus Aid , Relief and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”), including the Coronavirus Relief Fund (the “CRFund”) which provides for direct payments to qualifying units of local governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**WHEREAS**, the County met the population threshold and received a direct distribution of the CRFund to be used for expenditures that were directly related to and incurred as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to guidance provided by the United States Department of Treasury: (Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local and Tribal Governments) (the “Guidance”) issued April 22, 2020, and updated on June 30, 2020, and September 2, 2020 (which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein as **Exhibit “A”**), the CRFund allows a recipient to utilize funds for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency and meets the other criteria of section 601(d) of the Social Security Act as outlined in the Guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to designate a portion of the funds received to reimburse CCRGV for expenses incurred as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency in compliance with the terms and criteria of the CRFund and as more fully described below; and

**WHEREAS**, the purposes of this agreement is to memorialize the understanding between the parties that the COUNTY will reimburse CCRGV a specified amount of the CRFund in order to directly address and reimburse necessary expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the

COVID-19 related public health emergency. In exchange, CCRGV will make efforts to provide expanded economic support, related to mortgage, rental, and utility assistance to residents of Hidalgo County as authorized in the Guidance and as more fully described below; and

**WHEREAS**, the COUNTY finds that this agreement, as it relates to the provision of economic support to individuals and families that have been directly impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency, serves a public purpose for the health, safety, and wellbeing of the residents of the County of Hidalgo;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises, conditions and covenants expressed between parties hereto, it is understood and agreed by and between COUNTY and CCRGV, as follows:

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES:**

1. CCRGV will provide expanded economic support in the form of mortgage, rental, and utility assistance to residents of Hidalgo County in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
2. CCRGV will continue efforts associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency through the administration of providing emergency financial assistance to individuals and families directly impacted by a loss of income due to COVID-19 public health emergency.
3. CCRGV will provide services and related actions as authorized in the Treasury CRF Guidance and agrees to establish and maintain all necessary records and reports that may be required and provide all necessary documentation to ensure expenditures related to the administration of financial assistance in compliance with the CRFund guidance (FAQ updated May 4, 2020, attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit "B"**).
4. COUNTY will provide funds from the CRFund in the amount of **\$256,121.44** to reimburse CCRGV for necessary expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures, and continue emergency financial assistance to residents of the COUNTY.
5. Upon execution of the Agreement by all parties and the COUNTY will disburse twenty-percent (20%) of CRFunds designated for the CCRGV noted in section (4.) to reimburse CCRGV for necessary expenses incurred and associated with the provision of economic support related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
6. This Agreement is effective upon execution and ends on December 30, 2020. The term of this Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties. The Agreement may be terminated by either party without cause, upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other party.
7. CCRGV shall deliver a copy of all related supporting expense documentation, Reimbursement Request form (attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit "C"**), and the final report of COVID-19 related expenditures to COUNTY no later than November 30, 2020, and shall keep the supporting documentation for a minimum of three (3) years. CCRGV shall give The United States Treasury Department, the Special Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Treasury, the Comptroller General of the United States, County, County Auditor, and any of their duly authorized representative, unobstructed and full access to and the right to examine all books, accounts, records, reports, files, and other papers, things or property belonging to or in use by CCRGV pertaining to this Agreement as it pertains to the use of federal funds.
8. CCRGV agrees to conform to its own applicable purchasing laws, regulations, employment policies and procedures with respect to any purchases or employment in relation to the funds provided to directly address and cover necessary medical and public health expenses incurred directly relating to COVID-19.
9. **CONFIDENTIALITY**. In the event this collaborative effort requires the mutual sharing of information made confidential by the laws of the State of Texas and of the United States,

information will only be exchanged as allowed by law.

10. **LIABILITY.** This Agreement is not intended to extend the liability of the Parties beyond that provided by law. Neither party waives, nor shall be deemed to have hereby waived, any immunity or defenses that would otherwise be available to it against claims arising from third parties.
11. **INDEMNIFICATION. THE PARTIES AGREE TO BE RESPONSIBLE EACH FOR THEIR OWN NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS, OR OTHER TORTIOUS CONDUCT IN THE COURSE OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT WITHOUT WAIVING ANY SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL IMMUNITY, OR OTHER DEFENSES AVAILABLE TO THE PARTIES UNDER FEDERAL OR STATE LAW. NOTHING IN THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO CREATE OR GRANT ANY RIGHTS, CONTRACTUAL OR OTHERWISE, IN OR TO ANY THIRD PERSONS OR ENTITIES.**
12. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The Parties agree to mandatory participation in mediation as an Alternative Dispute Resolution process, before any action, suit, litigation or other proceeding arising out of or in any way relating to this Agreement may be commenced.
13. **NO WAIVER.** No waiver by County of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
14. This Agreement may be amended or modified by the consent of both parties at any time during its term. Amendments to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by COUNTY and CCRGV. No change in, addition to, or waiver of any term or condition of this Agreement shall be binding either party unless approved in writing by an authorized representative of each party.
15. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement contains the entire contract between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representations or agreements in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by County and CCRGV, and not otherwise.
16. **TEXAS LAW TO APPLY.** This Agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas. The parties hereby consent to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.
17. **NOTICE.** Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, requests or communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by electronic mail, or (iii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or (iv) sent by facsimile to the parties at the addresses set forth below, as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to County: County of Hidalgo  
Attention: County Judge  
100 E. Cano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Edinburg, TX 78539  
(956)318-2600

With copy to: Mr. Sergio Cruz  
Hidalgo County Budget Officer  
2818 S. Bus. Hwy 281  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
(956)292-7025  
-And-

Ms. Maria Arcilia Duran, CPA  
Hidalgo County Auditor

2808 S. Bus. Hwy 281  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
(956)318-2511

If to CCRGV: Sister Norma Pimentel  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley  
700 N. Virgen de San Juan Blvd.  
San Juan, Texas 78502  
(956) 541-0220

Each notice, demand, request or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee or, if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

18. Neither party shall assign any right, benefit or duty under this Agreement without the other party's prior written consent.
19. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, including facsimile or scanned/emailed PDF documents. Each such counterpart, facsimile, or scanned/emailed PDF document shall be deemed an original instrument, all of which, together, shall constitute one and the same executed Agreement.
20. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS. The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Agreement.
21. SUCCESSORS. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.
22. The Parties to the Agreement agree that all related activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not discriminate against any person on a basis prohibited by applicable law or COUNTY and CCRGV policy, including without limitation race, gender, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, disability or any other protected status. CCRGV shall comply with applicable law, including but not limited to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
23. The Parties agree to comply with all applicable state or federal statute, rule, regulation, grant, contract provision, subsequent federal guidance or other similar restriction that imposes additional or greater requirements than stated in this MOU that is directly applicable to the performance under this Agreement. A non-exclusive list of regulations commonly applicable to Federal and State grants and equipment can be found in the new 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements.
24. LIABILITY FOR DISALLOWED COSTS. CCRGV understands and agrees that the funds received under this Agreement are federal funds and as such, it shall be liable to County for any costs disallowed pursuant to financial and compliance audit(s) of the CRFund. CCRGV further understands and agrees that reimbursement to County of such disallowed costs shall be paid by CCRGV from funds that were not provided or otherwise made available to CCRGV pursuant to this Agreement or any other federal award.
25. HEADINGS. The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenient reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.
26. IMMUNITY. This Agreement is expressly made subject to the County's Sovereign Immunity,

Title 5 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code and any applicable governmental immunity, and all applicable federal and state law. The Parties expressly agree that no provision of this Agreement is in any way intended to constitute a waiver of immunities from suit or from liability that either County or CCRGV has by operation of law.

- 27. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement will for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability will not affect any other provision thereof, and this Agreement will be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.
- 28. **AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by County and CCRGV have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of County and CCRGV in accordance with its terms.

**WITNESS THE HANDS OF THE PARTIES** effective as of the day and year first written above.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Hidalgo County**

*Richard F. Cortez*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

*Richard F. Cortez*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

*County Judge*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

*9/29/20*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPROVED BY  
COMMISSIONERS' COURT  
ON: *9/29/20* *ms*

Approved as to form for Hidalgo County:  
Office of Criminal District Attorney, Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr.

By: *VM Garza*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor M. Garza, Assistant District Attorney

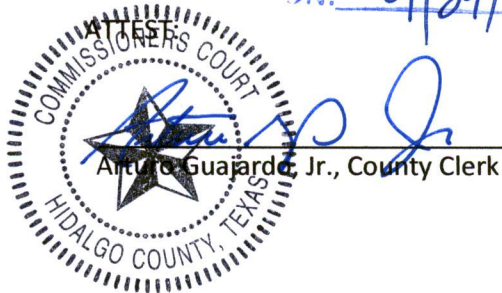


EXHIBIT "A"

**Coronavirus Relief Fund**  
**Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments**  
**April 22, 2020**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to recipients of the funding available under section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (the “Fund”) and appropriated \$150 billion to the Fund. Under the CARES Act, the Fund is to be used to make payments for specified uses to States and certain local governments; the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories (consisting of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands); and Tribal governments.

The CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that—

1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
2. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
3. were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

The guidance that follows sets forth the Department of the Treasury’s interpretation of these limitations on the permissible use of Fund payments.

*Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency*

The requirement that expenditures be incurred “due to” the public health emergency means that expenditures must be used for actions taken to respond to the public health emergency. These may include expenditures incurred to allow the State, territorial, local, or Tribal government to respond directly to the emergency, such as by addressing medical or public health needs, as well as expenditures incurred to respond to second-order effects of the emergency, such as by providing economic support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures.

Funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify under the statute. Although a broad range of uses is allowed, revenue replacement is not a permissible use of Fund payments.

The statute also specifies that expenditures using Fund payments must be “necessary.” The Department of the Treasury understands this term broadly to mean that the expenditure is reasonably necessary for its intended use in the reasonable judgment of the government officials responsible for spending Fund payments.

*Costs not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020*

The CARES Act also requires that payments be used only to cover costs that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. A cost meets this requirement if either (a) the cost cannot lawfully be funded using a line item, allotment, or allocation within that budget or (b) the cost

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<sup>1</sup> See Section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the CARES Act.

is for a substantially different use from any expected use of funds in such a line item, allotment, or allocation.

The “most recently approved” budget refers to the enacted budget for the relevant fiscal period for the particular government, without taking into account subsequent supplemental appropriations enacted or other budgetary adjustments made by that government in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. A cost is not considered to have been accounted for in a budget merely because it could be met using a budgetary stabilization fund, rainy day fund, or similar reserve account.

*Costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020*

A cost is “incurred” when the responsible unit of government has expended funds to cover the cost.

*Nonexclusive examples of eligible expenditures*

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, payment for:

1. Medical expenses such as:
  - COVID-19-related expenses of public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities.
  - Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs.
  - Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including serological testing.
  - Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19-related treatment.
2. Public health expenses such as:
  - Expenses for communication and enforcement by State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments of public health orders related to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for medical personnel, police officers, social workers, child protection services, and child welfare officers, direct service providers for older adults and individuals with disabilities in community settings, and other public health or safety workers in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, *e.g.*, nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety.
  - Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for quarantining individuals.
3. Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

4. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures, such as:
  - Expenses for food delivery to residents, including, for example, senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
  - Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - COVID-19-related expenses of maintaining state prisons and county jails, including as relates to sanitation and improvement of social distancing measures, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses for care for homeless populations provided to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
5. Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as:
  - Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.
  - Expenditures related to a State, territorial, local, or Tribal government payroll support program.
  - Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.
6. Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria.

*Nonexclusive examples of ineligible expenditures<sup>2</sup>*

The following is a list of examples of costs that would *not* be eligible expenditures of payments from the Fund.

1. Expenses for the State share of Medicaid.<sup>3</sup>
2. Damages covered by insurance.
3. Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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<sup>2</sup> In addition, pursuant to section 5001(b) of the CARES Act, payments from the Fund may not be expended for an elective abortion or on research in which a human embryo is destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death. The prohibition on payment for abortions does not apply to an abortion if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed. Furthermore, no government which receives payments from the Fund may discriminate against a health care entity on the basis that the entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

<sup>3</sup> See 42 C.F.R. § 433.51 and 45 C.F.R. § 75.306.

4. Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program, such as the reimbursement by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act of contributions by States to State unemployment funds.
5. Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services.
6. Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime.
7. Severance pay.
8. Legal settlements.

**Coronavirus Relief Fund**  
**Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments**  
**Updated June 30, 2020<sup>1</sup>**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to recipients of the funding available under section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (the “Fund”) and appropriated \$150 billion to the Fund. Under the CARES Act, the Fund is to be used to make payments for specified uses to States and certain local governments; the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories (consisting of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands); and Tribal governments.

The CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that—

1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
2. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
3. were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.<sup>2</sup>

The guidance that follows sets forth the Department of the Treasury’s interpretation of these limitations on the permissible use of Fund payments.

*Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency*

The requirement that expenditures be incurred “due to” the public health emergency means that expenditures must be used for actions taken to respond to the public health emergency. These may include expenditures incurred to allow the State, territorial, local, or Tribal government to respond directly to the emergency, such as by addressing medical or public health needs, as well as expenditures incurred to respond to second-order effects of the emergency, such as by providing economic support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures.

Funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify under the statute. Although a broad range of uses is allowed, revenue replacement is not a permissible use of Fund payments.

The statute also specifies that expenditures using Fund payments must be “necessary.” The Department of the Treasury understands this term broadly to mean that the expenditure is reasonably necessary for its intended use in the reasonable judgment of the government officials responsible for spending Fund payments.

*Costs not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020*

The CARES Act also requires that payments be used only to cover costs that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. A cost meets this requirement if either (a) the

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<sup>1</sup> This version updates the guidance provided under “Costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020”.

<sup>2</sup> See Section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the CARES Act.

cost cannot lawfully be funded using a line item, allotment, or allocation within that budget *or* (b) the cost is for a substantially different use from any expected use of funds in such a line item, allotment, or allocation.

The “most recently approved” budget refers to the enacted budget for the relevant fiscal period for the particular government, without taking into account subsequent supplemental appropriations enacted or other budgetary adjustments made by that government in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. A cost is not considered to have been accounted for in a budget merely because it could be met using a budgetary stabilization fund, rainy day fund, or similar reserve account.

*Costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020*

Finally, the CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020 (the “covered period”). Putting this requirement together with the other provisions discussed above, section 601(d) may be summarized as providing that a State, local, or tribal government may use payments from the Fund only to cover previously unbudgeted costs of necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency during the covered period.

Initial guidance released on April 22, 2020, provided that the cost of an expenditure is incurred when the recipient has expended funds to cover the cost. Upon further consideration and informed by an understanding of State, local, and tribal government practices, Treasury is clarifying that for a cost to be considered to have been incurred, performance or delivery must occur during the covered period but payment of funds need not be made during that time (though it is generally expected that this will take place within 90 days of a cost being incurred). For instance, in the case of a lease of equipment or other property, irrespective of when payment occurs, the cost of a lease payment shall be considered to have been incurred for the period of the lease that is within the covered period, but not otherwise. Furthermore, in all cases it must be necessary that performance or delivery take place during the covered period. Thus the cost of a good or service received during the covered period will not be considered eligible under section 601(d) if there is no need for receipt until after the covered period has expired.

Goods delivered in the covered period need not be used during the covered period in all cases. For example, the cost of a good that must be delivered in December in order to be available for use in January could be covered using payments from the Fund. Additionally, the cost of goods purchased in bulk and delivered during the covered period may be covered using payments from the Fund if a portion of the goods is ordered for use in the covered period, the bulk purchase is consistent with the recipient’s usual procurement policies and practices, and it is impractical to track and record when the items were used. A recipient may use payments from the Fund to purchase a durable good that is to be used during the current period and in subsequent periods if the acquisition in the covered period was necessary due to the public health emergency.

Given that it is not always possible to estimate with precision when a good or service will be needed, the touchstone in assessing the determination of need for a good or service during the covered period will be reasonableness at the time delivery or performance was sought, *e.g.*, the time of entry into a procurement contract specifying a time for delivery. Similarly, in recognition of the likelihood of supply chain disruptions and increased demand for certain goods and services during the COVID-19 public health emergency, if a recipient enters into a contract requiring the delivery of goods or performance of services by December 30, 2020, the failure of a vendor to complete delivery or services by December 30, 2020, will not affect the ability of the recipient to use payments from the Fund to cover the cost of such goods or services if the delay is due to circumstances beyond the recipient’s control.

This guidance applies in a like manner to costs of subrecipients. Thus, a grant or loan, for example, provided by a recipient using payments from the Fund must be used by the subrecipient only to purchase (or reimburse a purchase of) goods or services for which receipt both is needed within the covered period and occurs within the covered period. The direct recipient of payments from the Fund is ultimately responsible for compliance with this limitation on use of payments from the Fund.

*Nonexclusive examples of eligible expenditures*

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, payment for:

1. Medical expenses such as:
  - COVID-19-related expenses of public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities.
  - Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs.
  - Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including serological testing.
  - Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19-related treatment.
2. Public health expenses such as:
  - Expenses for communication and enforcement by State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments of public health orders related to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for medical personnel, police officers, social workers, child protection services, and child welfare officers, direct service providers for older adults and individuals with disabilities in community settings, and other public health or safety workers in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, *e.g.*, nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety.
  - Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for quarantining individuals.
3. Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
4. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures, such as:
  - Expenses for food delivery to residents, including, for example, senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
  - Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

- Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - COVID-19-related expenses of maintaining state prisons and county jails, including as relates to sanitation and improvement of social distancing measures, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses for care for homeless populations provided to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
5. Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as:
    - Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.
    - Expenditures related to a State, territorial, local, or Tribal government payroll support program.
    - Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.
  6. Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria.

*Nonexclusive examples of ineligible expenditures<sup>3</sup>*

The following is a list of examples of costs that would *not* be eligible expenditures of payments from the Fund.

1. Expenses for the State share of Medicaid.<sup>4</sup>
2. Damages covered by insurance.
3. Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
4. Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program, such as the reimbursement by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act of contributions by States to State unemployment funds.
5. Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services.
6. Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime.
7. Severance pay.
8. Legal settlements.

<sup>3</sup> In addition, pursuant to section 5001(b) of the CARES Act, payments from the Fund may not be expended for an elective abortion or on research in which a human embryo is destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death. The prohibition on payment for abortions does not apply to an abortion if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed. Furthermore, no government which receives payments from the Fund may discriminate against a health care entity on the basis that the entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

<sup>4</sup> See 42 C.F.R. § 433.51 and 45 C.F.R. § 75.306.

**Coronavirus Relief Fund**  
**Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments**  
**Updated September 2, 2020<sup>1</sup>**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to recipients of the funding available under section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”). The CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (the “Fund”) and appropriated \$150 billion to the Fund. Under the CARES Act, the Fund is to be used to make payments for specified uses to States and certain local governments; the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories (consisting of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands); and Tribal governments.

The CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that—

1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
2. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
3. were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.<sup>2</sup>

The guidance that follows sets forth the Department of the Treasury’s interpretation of these limitations on the permissible use of Fund payments.

*Necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency*

The requirement that expenditures be incurred “due to” the public health emergency means that expenditures must be used for actions taken to respond to the public health emergency. These may include expenditures incurred to allow the State, territorial, local, or Tribal government to respond directly to the emergency, such as by addressing medical or public health needs, as well as expenditures incurred to respond to second-order effects of the emergency, such as by providing economic support to those suffering from employment or business interruptions due to COVID-19-related business closures.

Funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify under the statute. Although a broad range of uses is allowed, revenue replacement is not a permissible use of Fund payments.

The statute also specifies that expenditures using Fund payments must be “necessary.” The Department of the Treasury understands this term broadly to mean that the expenditure is reasonably necessary for its intended use in the reasonable judgment of the government officials responsible for spending Fund payments.

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<sup>1</sup> On June 30, 2020, the guidance provided under “Costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020” was updated. On September 2, 2020, the “Supplemental Guidance on Use of Funds to Cover Payroll and Benefits of Public Employees” and “Supplemental Guidance on Use of Funds to Cover Administrative Costs” sections were added.

<sup>2</sup> See Section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the CARES Act.

*Costs not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020*

The CARES Act also requires that payments be used only to cover costs that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. A cost meets this requirement if either (a) the cost cannot lawfully be funded using a line item, allotment, or allocation within that budget *or* (b) the cost is for a substantially different use from any expected use of funds in such a line item, allotment, or allocation.

The “most recently approved” budget refers to the enacted budget for the relevant fiscal period for the particular government, without taking into account subsequent supplemental appropriations enacted or other budgetary adjustments made by that government in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. A cost is not considered to have been accounted for in a budget merely because it could be met using a budgetary stabilization fund, rainy day fund, or similar reserve account.

*Costs incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020*

Finally, the CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020 (the “covered period”). Putting this requirement together with the other provisions discussed above, section 601(d) may be summarized as providing that a State, local, or tribal government may use payments from the Fund only to cover previously unbudgeted costs of necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency during the covered period.

Initial guidance released on April 22, 2020, provided that the cost of an expenditure is incurred when the recipient has expended funds to cover the cost. Upon further consideration and informed by an understanding of State, local, and tribal government practices, Treasury is clarifying that for a cost to be considered to have been incurred, performance or delivery must occur during the covered period but payment of funds need not be made during that time (though it is generally expected that this will take place within 90 days of a cost being incurred). For instance, in the case of a lease of equipment or other property, irrespective of when payment occurs, the cost of a lease payment shall be considered to have been incurred for the period of the lease that is within the covered period but not otherwise. Furthermore, in all cases it must be necessary that performance or delivery take place during the covered period. Thus the cost of a good or service received during the covered period will not be considered eligible under section 601(d) if there is no need for receipt until after the covered period has expired.

Goods delivered in the covered period need not be used during the covered period in all cases. For example, the cost of a good that must be delivered in December in order to be available for use in January could be covered using payments from the Fund. Additionally, the cost of goods purchased in bulk and delivered during the covered period may be covered using payments from the Fund if a portion of the goods is ordered for use in the covered period, the bulk purchase is consistent with the recipient’s usual procurement policies and practices, and it is impractical to track and record when the items were used. A recipient may use payments from the Fund to purchase a durable good that is to be used during the current period and in subsequent periods if the acquisition in the covered period was necessary due to the public health emergency.

Given that it is not always possible to estimate with precision when a good or service will be needed, the touchstone in assessing the determination of need for a good or service during the covered period will be reasonableness at the time delivery or performance was sought, *e.g.*, the time of entry into a procurement contract specifying a time for delivery. Similarly, in recognition of the likelihood of supply chain disruptions and increased demand for certain goods and services during the COVID-19 public health emergency, if a recipient enters into a contract requiring the delivery of goods or performance of services by December 30, 2020, the failure of a vendor to complete delivery or services by December 30, 2020,

will not affect the ability of the recipient to use payments from the Fund to cover the cost of such goods or services if the delay is due to circumstances beyond the recipient's control.

This guidance applies in a like manner to costs of subrecipients. Thus, a grant or loan, for example, provided by a recipient using payments from the Fund must be used by the subrecipient only to purchase (or reimburse a purchase of) goods or services for which receipt both is needed within the covered period and occurs within the covered period. The direct recipient of payments from the Fund is ultimately responsible for compliance with this limitation on use of payments from the Fund.

#### *Nonexclusive examples of eligible expenditures*

Eligible expenditures include, but are not limited to, payment for:

1. Medical expenses such as:
  - COVID-19-related expenses of public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities.
  - Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs.
  - Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including serological testing.
  - Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19-related treatment.
2. Public health expenses such as:
  - Expenses for communication and enforcement by State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments of public health orders related to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for medical personnel, police officers, social workers, child protection services, and child welfare officers, direct service providers for older adults and individuals with disabilities in community settings, and other public health or safety workers in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, *e.g.*, nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety.
  - Expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19.
  - Expenses for quarantining individuals.
3. Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

4. Expenses of actions to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures, such as:
  - Expenses for food delivery to residents, including, for example, senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
  - Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - COVID-19-related expenses of maintaining state prisons and county jails, including as relates to sanitation and improvement of social distancing measures, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
  - Expenses for care for homeless populations provided to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
5. Expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as:
  - Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.
  - Expenditures related to a State, territorial, local, or Tribal government payroll support program.
  - Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.
6. Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria.

*Nonexclusive examples of ineligible expenditures<sup>3</sup>*

The following is a list of examples of costs that would not be eligible expenditures of payments from the Fund.

1. Expenses for the State share of Medicaid.<sup>4</sup>
2. Damages covered by insurance.
3. Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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<sup>3</sup> In addition, pursuant to section 5001(b) of the CARES Act, payments from the Fund may not be expended for an elective abortion or on research in which a human embryo is destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death. The prohibition on payment for abortions does not apply to an abortion if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed. Furthermore, no government which receives payments from the Fund may discriminate against a health care entity on the basis that the entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

<sup>4</sup> See 42 C.F.R. § 433.51 and 45 C.F.R. § 75.306.

4. Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program, such as the reimbursement by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act of contributions by States to State unemployment funds.
5. Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services.
6. Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime.
7. Severance pay.
8. Legal settlements.

### **Supplemental Guidance on Use of Funds to Cover Payroll and Benefits of Public Employees**

As discussed in the Guidance above, the CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund must be used only to cover costs that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020. As reflected in the Guidance and FAQs, Treasury has not interpreted this provision to limit eligible costs to those that are incremental increases above amounts previously budgeted. Rather, Treasury has interpreted this provision to exclude items that were already covered for their original use (or a substantially similar use). This guidance reflects the intent behind the Fund, which was not to provide general fiscal assistance to state governments but rather to assist them with COVID-19-related necessary expenditures. With respect to personnel expenses, though the Fund was not intended to be used to cover government payroll expenses generally, the Fund was intended to provide assistance to address increased expenses, such as the expense of hiring new personnel as needed to assist with the government's response to the public health emergency and to allow recipients facing budget pressures not to have to lay off or furlough employees who would be needed to assist with that purpose.

#### ***Substantially different use***

As stated in the Guidance above, Treasury considers the requirement that payments from the Fund be used only to cover costs that were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, to be met if either (a) the cost cannot lawfully be funded using a line item, allotment, or allocation within that budget *or* (b) the cost is for a *substantially different use* from any expected use of funds in such a line item, allotment, or allocation.

Treasury has provided examples as to what would constitute a substantially different use. Treasury provided (in FAQ A.3) that costs incurred for a substantially different use would include, for example, the costs of redeploying educational support staff or faculty to develop online learning capabilities, such as through providing information technology support that is not part of the staff or faculty's ordinary responsibilities.

#### ***Substantially dedicated***

Within this category of substantially different uses, as stated in the Guidance above, Treasury has included payroll and benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are *substantially dedicated* to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The *full amount* of payroll and benefits expenses of substantially dedicated employees may be covered using payments from the Fund. Treasury has not developed a precise definition of what "substantially dedicated" means given that there is not a precise way to define this term

across different employment types. The relevant unit of government should maintain documentation of the “substantially dedicated” conclusion with respect to its employees.

If an employee is not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, his or her payroll and benefits expenses may not be covered *in full* with payments from the Fund. A *portion* of such expenses may be able to be covered, however, as discussed below.

### ***Public health and public safety***

In recognition of the particular importance of public health and public safety workers to State, local, and tribal government responses to the public health emergency, Treasury has provided, as an administrative accommodation, that a State, local, or tribal government may presume that public health and public safety employees meet the substantially dedicated test, unless the chief executive (or equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise. This means that, if this presumption applies, work performed by such employees is considered to be a substantially different use than accounted for in the most recently approved budget as of March 27, 2020. All costs of such employees may be covered using payments from the Fund for services provided during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

In response to questions regarding which employees are within the scope of this accommodation, Treasury is supplementing this guidance to clarify that public safety employees would include police officers (including state police officers), sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, firefighters, emergency medical responders, correctional and detention officers, and those who directly support such employees such as dispatchers and supervisory personnel. Public health employees would include employees involved in providing medical and other health services to patients and supervisory personnel, including medical staff assigned to schools, prisons, and other such institutions, and other support services essential for patient care (e.g., laboratory technicians) as well as employees of public health departments directly engaged in matters related to public health and related supervisory personnel.

### ***Not substantially dedicated***

As provided in FAQ A.47, a State, local, or tribal government may also track time spent by employees related to COVID-19 and apply Fund payments on that basis but would need to do so consistently within the relevant agency or department. This means, for example, that a government could cover payroll expenses allocated on an hourly basis to employees’ time dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This result provides equitable treatment to governments that, for example, instead of having a few employees who are substantially dedicated to the public health emergency, have many employees who have a minority of their time dedicated to the public health emergency.

### ***Covered benefits***

Payroll and benefits of a substantially dedicated employee may be covered using payments from the Fund to the extent incurred between March 1 and December 30, 2020.

Payroll includes certain hazard pay and overtime, but not workforce bonuses. As discussed in FAQ A.29, hazard pay may be covered using payments from the Fund if it is provided for performing hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship that in each case is related to COVID-19. This means that, whereas payroll and benefits of an employee who is substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency may generally be covered in full using payments from the Fund, hazard pay specifically may only be covered to the extent it is related to COVID-19. For example, a recipient may use payments from the Fund to cover hazard pay for a police officer coming in close

contact with members of the public to enforce public health or public safety orders, but across-the-board hazard pay for all members of a police department regardless of their duties would not be able to be covered with payments from the Fund. This position reflects the statutory intent discussed above: the Fund was intended to be used to help governments address the public health emergency both by providing funds for incremental expenses (such as hazard pay related to COVID-19) and to allow governments not to have to furlough or lay off employees needed to address the public health emergency but was not intended to provide across-the-board budget support (as would be the case if hazard pay regardless of its relation to COVID-19 or workforce bonuses were permitted to be covered using payments from the Fund).

Relatedly, both hazard pay and overtime pay for employees that are not substantially dedicated may only be covered using the Fund if the hazard pay and overtime pay is for COVID-19-related duties. As discussed above, governments may allocate payroll and benefits of such employees with respect to time worked on COVID-19-related matters.

Covered benefits include, but are not limited to, the costs of all types of leave (vacation, family-related, sick, military, bereavement, sabbatical, jury duty), employee insurance (health, life, dental, vision), retirement (pensions, 401(k)), unemployment benefit plans (federal and state), workers compensation insurance, and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes (which includes Social Security and Medicare taxes).

#### **Supplemental Guidance on Use of Funds to Cover Administrative Costs**

##### ***General***

Payments from the Fund are not administered as part of a traditional grant program and the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, that are applicable to indirect costs do not apply. Recipients may not apply their indirect costs rates to payments received from the Fund.

Recipients may, if they meet the conditions specified in the guidance for tracking time consistently across a department, use payments from the Fund to cover the portion of payroll and benefits of employees corresponding to time spent on administrative work necessary due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. (In other words, such costs would be eligible direct costs of the recipient). This includes, but is not limited to, costs related to disbursing payments from the Fund and managing new grant programs established using payments from the Fund.

As with any other costs to be covered using payments from the Fund, any such administrative costs must be incurred by December 30, 2020, with an exception for certain compliance costs as discussed below. Furthermore, as discussed in the Guidance above, as with any other cost, an administrative cost that has been or will be reimbursed under any federal program may not be covered with the Fund. For example, if an administrative cost is already being covered as a direct or indirect cost pursuant to another federal grant, the Fund may not be used to cover that cost.

##### ***Compliance costs related to the Fund***

As previously stated in FAQ B.11, recipients are permitted to use payments from the Fund to cover the expenses of an audit conducted under the Single Audit Act, subject to the limitations set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.425. Pursuant to that provision of the Uniform Guidance, recipients and subrecipients subject to the Single Audit Act may use payments from the Fund to cover a reasonably proportionate share of the costs of audits attributable to the Fund.

To the extent a cost is incurred by December 30, 2020, for an eligible use consistent with section 601 of the Social Security Act and Treasury's guidance, a necessary administrative compliance expense that relates to such underlying cost may be incurred after December 30, 2020. Such an expense would include, for example, expenses incurred to comply with the Single Audit Act and reporting and recordkeeping requirements imposed by the Office of Inspector General. A recipient with such necessary administrative expenses, such as an ongoing audit continuing past December 30, 2020, that relates to Fund expenditures incurred during the covered period, must report to the Treasury Office of Inspector General by the quarter ending September 2021 an estimate of the amount of such necessary administrative expenses.

# EXHIBIT “B”

**Coronavirus Relief Fund  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Updated as of May 4, 2020**

The following answers to frequently asked questions supplement Treasury's Coronavirus Relief Fund ("Fund") Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments, dated April 22, 2020, ("Guidance").<sup>1</sup> Amounts paid from the Fund are subject to the restrictions outlined in the Guidance and set forth in section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act").

**Eligible Expenditures**

*Are governments required to submit proposed expenditures to Treasury for approval?*

No. Governments are responsible for making determinations as to what expenditures are necessary due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 and do not need to submit any proposed expenditures to Treasury.

*The Guidance says that funding can be used to meet payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. How does a government determine whether payroll expenses for a given employee satisfy the "substantially dedicated" condition?*

The Fund is designed to provide ready funding to address unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the COVID-19 public health emergency. For this reason, and as a matter of administrative convenience in light of the emergency nature of this program, a State, territorial, local, or Tribal government may presume that payroll costs for public health and public safety employees are payments for services substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, unless the chief executive (or equivalent) of the relevant government determines that specific circumstances indicate otherwise.

*The Guidance says that a cost was not accounted for in the most recently approved budget if the cost is for a substantially different use from any expected use of funds in such a line item, allotment, or allocation. What would qualify as a "substantially different use" for purposes of the Fund eligibility?*

Costs incurred for a "substantially different use" include, but are not necessarily limited to, costs of personnel and services that were budgeted for in the most recently approved budget but which, due entirely to the COVID-19 public health emergency, have been diverted to substantially different functions. This would include, for example, the costs of redeploying corrections facility staff to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions through work such as enhanced sanitation or enforcing social distancing measures; the costs of redeploying police to support management and enforcement of stay-at-home orders; or the costs of diverting educational support staff or faculty to develop online learning capabilities, such as through providing information technology support that is not part of the staff or faculty's ordinary responsibilities.

Note that a public function does not become a "substantially different use" merely because it is provided from a different location or through a different manner. For example, although developing online

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<sup>1</sup> The Guidance is available at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Guidance-for-State-Territorial-Local-and-Tribal-Governments.pdf>.

instruction capabilities may be a substantially different use of funds, online instruction itself is not a substantially different use of public funds than classroom instruction.

***May a State receiving a payment transfer funds to a local government?***

Yes, provided that the transfer qualifies as a necessary expenditure incurred due to the public health emergency and meets the other criteria of section 601(d) of the Social Security Act. Such funds would be subject to recoupment by the Treasury Department if they have not been used in a manner consistent with section 601(d) of the Social Security Act.

***May a unit of local government receiving a Fund payment transfer funds to another unit of government?***

Yes. For example, a county may transfer funds to a city, town, or school district within the county and a county or city may transfer funds to its State, provided that the transfer qualifies as a necessary expenditure incurred due to the public health emergency and meets the other criteria of section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance. For example, a transfer from a county to a constituent city would not be permissible if the funds were intended to be used simply to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify as an eligible expenditure.

***Is a Fund payment recipient required to transfer funds to a smaller, constituent unit of government within its borders?***

No. For example, a county recipient is not required to transfer funds to smaller cities within the county's borders.

***Are recipients required to use other federal funds or seek reimbursement under other federal programs before using Fund payments to satisfy eligible expenses?***

No. Recipients may use Fund payments for any expenses eligible under section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance. Fund payments are not required to be used as the source of funding of last resort. However, as noted below, recipients may not use payments from the Fund to cover expenditures for which they will receive reimbursement.

***Are there prohibitions on combining a transaction supported with Fund payments with other CARES Act funding or COVID-19 relief Federal funding?***

Recipients will need to consider the applicable restrictions and limitations of such other sources of funding. In addition, expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program, such as the reimbursement by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act of contributions by States to State unemployment funds, are not eligible uses of Fund payments.

***Are States permitted to use Fund payments to support state unemployment insurance funds generally?***

To the extent that the costs incurred by a state unemployment insurance fund are incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, a State may use Fund payments to make payments to its respective state unemployment insurance fund, separate and apart from such State's obligation to the unemployment insurance fund as an employer. This will permit States to use Fund payments to prevent expenses related to the public health emergency from causing their state unemployment insurance funds to become insolvent.

***Are recipients permitted to use Fund payments to pay for unemployment insurance costs incurred by the recipient as an employer?***

Yes, Fund payments may be used for unemployment insurance costs incurred by the recipient as an employer (for example, as a reimbursing employer) related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.

***The Guidance states that the Fund may support a “broad range of uses” including payroll expenses for several classes of employees whose services are “substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.” What are some examples of types of covered employees?***

The Guidance provides examples of broad classes of employees whose payroll expenses would be eligible expenses under the Fund. These classes of employees include public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Payroll and benefit costs associated with public employees who could have been furloughed or otherwise laid off but who were instead repurposed to perform previously unbudgeted functions substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency are also covered. Other eligible expenditures include payroll and benefit costs of educational support staff or faculty responsible for developing online learning capabilities necessary to continue educational instruction in response to COVID-19-related school closures. Please see the Guidance for a discussion of what is meant by an expense that was not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020.

***In some cases, first responders and critical health care workers that contract COVID-19 are eligible for workers’ compensation coverage. Is the cost of this expanded workers compensation coverage eligible?***

Increased workers compensation cost to the government due to the COVID-19 public health emergency incurred during the period beginning March 1, 2020, and ending December 30, 2020, is an eligible expense.

***If a recipient would have decommissioned equipment or not renewed a lease on particular office space or equipment but decides to continue to use the equipment or to renew the lease in order to respond to the public health emergency, are the costs associated with continuing to operate the equipment or the ongoing lease payments eligible expenses?***

Yes. To the extent the expenses were previously unbudgeted and are otherwise consistent with section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance, such expenses would be eligible.

***May recipients provide stipends to employees for eligible expenses (for example, a stipend to employees to improve telework capabilities) rather than require employees to incur the eligible cost and submit for reimbursement?***

Expenditures paid for with payments from the Fund must be limited to those that are necessary due to the public health emergency. As such, unless the government were to determine that providing assistance in the form of a stipend is an administrative necessity, the government should provide such assistance on a reimbursement basis to ensure as much as possible that funds are used to cover only eligible expenses.

***May Fund payments be used for COVID-19 public health emergency recovery planning?***

Yes. Expenses associated with conducting a recovery planning project or operating a recovery coordination office would be eligible, if the expenses otherwise meet the criteria set forth in section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance.

***Are expenses associated with contact tracing eligible?***

Yes, expenses associated with contract tracing are eligible.

***To what extent may a government use Fund payments to support the operations of private hospitals?***

Governments may use Fund payments to support public or private hospitals to the extent that the costs are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but the form such assistance would take may differ. In particular, financial assistance to private hospitals could take the form of a grant or a short-term loan.

***May payments from the Fund be used to assist individuals with enrolling in a government benefit program for those who have been laid off due to COVID-19 and thereby lost health insurance?***

Yes. To the extent that the relevant government official determines that these expenses are necessary and they meet the other requirements set forth in section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance, these expenses are eligible.

***May recipients use Fund payments to facilitate livestock depopulation incurred by producers due to supply chain disruptions?***

Yes, to the extent these efforts are deemed necessary for public health reasons or as a form of economic support as a result of the COVID-19 health emergency.

***Would providing a consumer grant program to prevent eviction and assist in preventing homelessness be considered an eligible expense?***

Yes, assuming that the recipient considers the grants to be a necessary expense incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and the grants meet the other requirements for the use of Fund payments under section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance. As a general matter, providing assistance to recipients to enable them to meet property tax requirements would not be an eligible use of funds, but exceptions may be made in the case of assistance designed to prevent foreclosures.

***May recipients create a "payroll support program" for public employees?***

Use of payments from the Fund to cover payroll or benefits expenses of public employees are limited to those employees whose work duties are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

***May recipients use Fund payments to cover employment and training programs for employees that have been furloughed due to the public health emergency?***

Yes, this would be an eligible expense if the government determined that the costs of such employment and training programs would be necessary due to the public health emergency.

***May recipients use Fund payments to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families directly impacted by a loss of income due to the COVID-19 public health emergency?***

Yes, if a government determines such assistance to be a necessary expenditure. Such assistance could include, for example, a program to assist individuals with payment of overdue rent or mortgage payments to avoid eviction or foreclosure or unforeseen financial costs for funerals and other emergency individual needs. Such assistance should be structured in a manner to ensure as much as possible, within the realm of what is administratively feasible, that such assistance is necessary.

***The Guidance provides that eligible expenditures may include expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures. What is meant by a “small business,” and is the Guidance intended to refer only to expenditures to cover administrative expenses of such a grant program?***

Governments have discretion to determine what payments are necessary. A program that is aimed at assisting small businesses with the costs of business interruption caused by required closures should be tailored to assist those businesses in need of such assistance. The amount of a grant to a small business to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures would also be an eligible expenditure under section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as outlined in the Guidance.

***The Guidance provides that expenses associated with the provision of economic support in connection with the public health emergency, such as expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures, would constitute eligible expenditures of Fund payments. Would such expenditures be eligible in the absence of a stay-at-home order?***

Fund payments may be used for economic support in the absence of a stay-at-home order if such expenditures are determined by the government to be necessary. This may include, for example, a grant program to benefit small businesses that close voluntarily to promote social distancing measures or that are affected by decreased customer demand as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

***May Fund payments be used to assist impacted property owners with the payment of their property taxes?***

Fund payments may not be used for government revenue replacement, including the provision of assistance to meet tax obligations.

***May Fund payments be used to replace foregone utility fees? If not, can Fund payments be used as a direct subsidy payment to all utility account holders?***

Fund payments may not be used for government revenue replacement, including the replacement of unpaid utility fees. Fund payments may be used for subsidy payments to electricity account holders to the extent that the subsidy payments are deemed by the recipient to be necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and meet the other criteria of section 601(d) of the Social Security Act outlined in the Guidance. For example, if determined to be a necessary expenditure, a government could provide grants to individuals facing economic hardship to allow them to pay their utility fees and thereby continue to receive essential services.

***Could Fund payments be used for capital improvement projects that broadly provide potential economic development in a community?***

In general, no. If capital improvement projects are not necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, then Fund payments may not be used for such projects.

However, Fund payments may be used for the expenses of, for example, establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity or improve mitigation measures, including related construction costs.

*The Guidance includes workforce bonuses as an example of ineligible expenses but provides that hazard pay would be eligible if otherwise determined to be a necessary expense. Is there a specific definition of “hazard pay”?*

Hazard pay means additional pay for performing hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship, in each case that is related to COVID-19.

*The Guidance provides that ineligible expenditures include “[p]ayroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.” Is this intended to relate only to public employees?*

Yes. This particular nonexclusive example of an ineligible expenditure relates to public employees. A recipient would not be permitted to pay for payroll or benefit expenses of private employees and any financial assistance (such as grants or short-term loans) to private employers are not subject to the restriction that the private employers’ employees must be substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

*May counties pre-pay with CARES Act funds for expenses such as a one or two-year facility lease, such as to house staff hired in response to COVID-19?*

A government should not make prepayments on contracts using payments from the Fund to the extent that doing so would not be consistent with its ordinary course policies and procedures.

#### **Questions Related to Administration of Fund Payments**

*Do governments have to return unspent funds to Treasury?*

Yes. Section 601(f)(2) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001(a) of the CARES Act, provides for recoupment by the Department of the Treasury of amounts received from the Fund that have not been used in a manner consistent with section 601(d) of the Social Security Act. If a government has not used funds it has received to cover costs that were incurred by December 30, 2020, as required by the statute, those funds must be returned to the Department of the Treasury.

*What records must be kept by governments receiving payment?*

A government should keep records sufficient to demonstrate that the amount of Fund payments to the government has been used in accordance with section 601(d) of the Social Security Act

*May recipients deposit Fund payments into interest bearing accounts?*

Yes, provided that if recipients separately invest amounts received from the Fund, they must use the interest earned or other proceeds of these investments only to cover expenditures incurred in accordance with section 601(d) of the Social Security Act and the Guidance on eligible expenses. If a government deposits Fund payments in a government’s general account, it may use those funds to meet immediate cash management needs provided that the full amount of the payment is used to cover necessary

expenditures. Fund payments are not subject to the Cash Management Improvement Act of 1990, as amended.

*May governments retain assets purchased with payments from the Fund?*

Yes, if the purchase of the asset was consistent with the limitations on the eligible use of funds provided by section 601(d) of the Social Security Act.

*What rules apply to the proceeds of disposition or sale of assets acquired using payments from the Fund?*

If such assets are disposed of prior to December 30, 2020, the proceeds would be subject to the restrictions on the eligible use of payments from the Fund provided by section 601(d) of the Social Security Act.

# EXHIBIT "C"



# HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

## Coronavirus Relief Fund Reimbursement Request Form

All parts of this form must be completed by the Entity. Incomplete forms will be returned.  
The information must be legible. Please refer to the instructions page for proper completion of this form.

Entity CONTACT INFORMATION			
<b>SECTION 1</b>	1. Entity Name:	2. Contact Name:	3. Contact Title:
	4. Mailing Address: (Street, city, state and ZIP code)	5. Contact Phone: _____ ext. _____	

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND EXPENDITURE INFORMATION				
<b>SECTION 2</b>	6. Report Period:	Begin Date	End Date	7. Payment Request No.: _____
	8. Expense Category (check one)		9. Amount Paid:	10. Description of Expense(s):
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Category 1</b> Medical expenses			
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Category 2</b> Public health expenses			
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Category 3</b> Payroll expenses for employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 emergency			
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Category 4</b> Expenses to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures			
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Category 5</b> Expenses for economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency			
	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Category 6</b> Other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government			
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$ 0.00	



# HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

## Coronavirus Relief Fund

### Reimbursement Request Form

All parts of this form must be completed by the Entity. Incomplete forms will be returned.  
 The information must be legible. Please refer to the instructions page for proper completion of this form.

ASSURANCES	
<b>SECTION 3</b>	11. Were the expenditures reported above necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19? <span style="float: right;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></span>
	12. Were the expenditures reported above not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for your Entity? <span style="float: right;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></span>
	13. Were the expenditures reported above incurred (paid) during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on August 31, 2020? <span style="float: right;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></span>
	14. Has any part of the expenditures reported above been reimbursed by insurance, legal settlement, or any other emergency COVID-19 supplemental funding (whether federal, state, or private in nature)? <span style="float: right;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></span>

CERTIFICATION	
<b>SECTION 4</b>	The undersigned hereby certifies under penalties of perjury that this request for reimbursement from the Coronavirus Relief Fund is true, complete, and accurate and the expenditures reported are in compliance with all conditions of section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.
	15. Name: _____ 16. Title: _____
	17. Signature: _____ 18. Date: _____

SUBMISSION INFORMATION	FOR COUNTY USE ONLY
<b>SECTION 5</b>	
Submit completed form and supporting documentation via: email: <a href="mailto:COVID-19@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us">COVID-19@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us</a> mail: Hidalgo County Auditor's Office Hidalgo County Administration Building 2808 South Business Highway 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539-6243	19. Reviewed by: _____ <div style="text-align: center;">(Signature)</div> 20. Name: _____ 21. Date: _____

# HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE

## Instructions For Coronavirus Relief Fund Reimbursement Request Form

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete all sections of the Reimbursement Request Form and forward the completed form along with supporting documentation via:

email: COVID-19@auditor.co.hidalgo.tx.us  
mail: HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR  
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE DIVISION  
Hidalgo County Administration Building  
2808 South Business Highway 281  
Edinburg, Texas 78539-6243

Please note that the review process takes anywhere from 10 to 30 days to complete. All payments will be paid via check.

### Section 1: Entity Contact Information

1. **Entity Name:** Enter the name of the entity .
2. **Contact Name:** Enter the name of the person we should contact for questions related to the reimbursement request and/or supporting documentation.
3. **Contact Title:** Enter the title of the contact person.
4. **Mailing Address:** Enter the mailing address where reimbursement checks should be mailed.
5. **Contact Phone:** Enter the Contact's phone number (and ext., if applicable.)

### Section 2: Coronavirus Relief Fund Expenditure Information

6. **Report Period:** Enter the beginning and ending dates of the period covered by reimbursement request.  
The Begin Date should not predate March 1, 2020 and the End Date should not postdate August 31, 2020.
7. **Payment Request No.:** Requests for reimbursement can be made by completing multiple request forms. Each request should be sequentially numbered using the first 3 letters of the entity and the number of the request. For example, the City of McAllen would number its first payment request form as MCA-1, the second payment request form as MCA-2, and so on. For ease of review and to expedite payments, it is preferred that each request be limited to one category of expense.
8. **Expense Category:** Indicate the type of expenditures for which reimbursement is being requested by checking the appropriate category of expense.
9. **Amount Paid:** Enter the dollar amount of expenditures being requested for reimbursement. Documentation that is required to be submitted to support this amount includes, but is not limited to: cancelled checks; invoices; payroll records; personnel policies; purchasing policies; bid documents or cooperative purchasing agreements for payments exceeding \$50,000; eligibility criteria and documents demonstrating that recipient was eligible for payments made to businesses, etc.
10. **Description of Expense(s):** Enter a narrative description of the type of expenses included for the category. If additional space is needed a separate letter can be submitted. If a separate letter is submitted, please make reference to the separate letter on this item (e.g., See attached Letter).

### Section 3: Assurances

11. Indicate by checking either the **Yes** or **No** box whether the expenditures reported in Section 2 were incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19.
12. Indicate by checking either the **Yes** or **No** box whether the expenditures reported in Section 2 were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 by your entity .
13. Indicate by checking either the **Yes** or **No** box whether the expenditures reported in Section 2 were incurred (paid) during the period that begins March 1, 2020 and ends on August 31, 2020.
14. Indicate by checking either the **Yes** or **No** box whether any part of the expenditures reported in Section 2 has been reimbursed by insurance, legal settlement, or any other emergency COVID-19 supplemental funding (whether federal, state, or private in nature).

### Section 4: Certification

15. **Name:** Enter the name of the authorized representative signing this form.
16. **Title:** Enter the title of the authorized representative signing the form.
17. **Signature:** Original signature of the authorized representative is required.
18. **Date:** Enter or print the date the form was signed.

### Section 5: For County Use Only

19. **Reviewed by:** Original signature of the employee responsible for reviewing the form and supporting documentation.
20. **Name:** Print the name of the reviewer.
21. **Date:** Print the date the review was completed.