

CITY OF HIGH POINT AGENDA ITEM



Title: Guilford County CARES Act funding

From: Eric Olmedo, Assistant City Manager

Public Hearing: N/A

Attachments: Interlocal Agreement & Resolution

Meeting Date: August 17, 2020

Advertising Date: N/A

Advertised By: N/A

PURPOSE:

Request to adopt a Resolution approving an Interlocal Agreement between Guilford County and the City of High Point regarding CARES Act funding.

BACKGROUND:

Cities and Counties with populations of 500,000 or more received funding from the Federal Government under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). Guilford County received approximately \$93,700,000 in funding, since it is a unit of government with a population over 500,000. Under this act, there is no requirement that Guilford County share any of the funds with municipalities within the County, however, they have chosen to do so based on a formula using population. High Point's share of the funding based on population is \$1,113,220.

BUDGET IMPACT: The City will receive funding of \$1,113,220 to reimburse direct expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED: Staff recommends and asks the Council adopt a Resolution approving the interlocal agreement and authorize the appropriate city official to execute all necessary documents.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF HIGH POINT AND THE COUNTY OF GUILFORD FOR
PARTICIPATION IN THE GUILFORD COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COVID-19 REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 160A-461 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the City of High Point (“City”) is authorized to enter into interlocal agreements with other units of local government and local political subdivisions in order to execute any undertaking; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County, North Carolina (“County”) is a body politic and corporate in the State of North Carolina, established and regulated by Chapter 98 of the Public Local and Private Laws of 1941, as amended by Chapter 793 of the 1969 Session Laws of Chapter 594 of the 1985 Session Laws, and

WHEREAS, Guilford County received approximately \$93,700,000 from the United States Government pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”); and

WHEREAS, The CARES Act provides for payments to local government navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak via the Coronavirus Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act provides that payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund may only be used to cover expenses which: (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 local government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County was eligible to receive payments under the CARES Act, as it is a unit of local government in excess of 500,000 residents: and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Treasury has issued guidelines with regards to the authorized use of funds allocated to local governments under the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, neither the CARES Act, the United States Department of Treasury, nor state law, requires that the County disburse any funds to local municipalities within its geographic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, under the CARES Act, the County is ultimately responsible for any expenditures from CARES Act funds; and

WHEREAS, much uncertainty remains regarding future costs the County and local municipalities will be forced to bear related to the coronavirus emergency, and

WHEREAS, much uncertainty exists as to the potential for future allocations of federal or state monies to defray those future costs, and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to enter into an interlocal agreement to promote the most efficient distribution of resources which have been made available to Guilford County to benefit the citizens of Guilford County, and

WHEREAS, under the CARES Act, should the Office of the Inspector General determine that the funds were used in a manner contrary to the intent of the legislature or contrary to the United States' Department of Treasury guidelines, the CARES Act provides that the federal government may recoup the improperly spent funds from the County; and

WHEREAS, the County, those municipalities within Guilford County, and their residents, have suffered secondary effects of the coronavirus emergency, as the State of North Carolina has ordered the closure of non-essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County, as the jurisdiction responsible for disbursement of funds under the CARES Act, finds that it is appropriate to use these funds to defray certain costs incurred by the City related to the coronavirus emergency; and

WHEREAS, the disbursement of funds under the CARES Act to the City is in the best interests of the County, the City and their residents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the High Point City Council, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Interlocal Agreement between the City of High Point and the County of Guilford for participation in the Guilford County Local Government COVID-19 Reimbursement Program, in which the City shall receive reimbursement, in aggregate, no more than \$1,113,220.00 for COVID-19 eligible response and recovery expenses.

Adopted this the 17th day of August 2020.

Jay Wagner, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa B. Vierling, City Clerk

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPATION IN GUILFORD
COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COVID-19 REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into on this ____ day of August, 2020 by and between the County of Guilford, a body politic and corporate, hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY" and the City of High Point, a unit of municipal government, hereinafter referred to as "MUNICIPALITY", and collectively referred to as "the Parties".

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Guilford County received approximately Ninety-Three million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$93,700,000) from the United States Government pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"); and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act provides for payments to local governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak via the Coronavirus Relief Fund; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act provides that payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund may only be used to cover expenses which: (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 local government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020; and WHEREAS, Guilford County was eligible to receive payments under the CARES Act, as it is a unit of local government in excess of 500,000 residents: and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Treasury has issued guidelines with regards to the authorized use of funds allocated to local governments under the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, neither the CARES Act, the United States Department of Treasury, nor state law, requires that the County disburse any funds to local municipalities within its geographic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, under the CARES Act, the County is ultimately responsible for any expenditures from CARES Act funds; and

WHEREAS, much uncertainty remains regarding future costs the County and local municipalities will be forced to bear related to the coronavirus emergency, and

WHEREAS, much uncertainty exists as to the potential for future allocations of federal or state monies to defray those future costs, and

WHEREAS, this agreement is intended to promote the most efficient distribution of resources which have been made available to Guilford County to benefit the citizens of Guilford County, and

WHEREAS, under the CARES Act, should the Office of the Inspector General determine that the funds were used in a manner contrary to the intent of the legislature or contrary to the United States' Department of Treasury guidelines, the CARES ACT provides that the federal government may recoup the improperly spent funds from the County; and

WHEREAS, the County, those municipalities within Guilford County, and their residents, have suffered secondary effects of the coronavirus emergency, as the State of North Carolina has ordered the closure of non-essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, Guilford County, as the jurisdiction responsible for disbursement of funds under the CARES Act, finds that it is appropriate to use these funds to defray certain costs incurred by the Municipality related to the coronavirus emergency; and WHEREAS, the disbursement of funds under the CARES Act to the Municipality is in the best interests of the County, the Municipality and their residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and Agreements contained herein, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1.0 Recitals, Definitions, and Purpose.

1.1 Recitals Incorporated. The recitals set forth above are incorporated in this Agreement by reference and made a part of this Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA").

1.2 Definitions.

A. "CARES Act funds" shall refer to funds which have been allocated to Guilford County under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

("CARES Act") of which Guilford County is responsible for the disposition.

B. "Forms" shall refer to forms or application documents used to seek reimbursement of coronavirus related expenses under this agreement.

"Expenses" shall refer to the cost of tangible goods and services which (1) were 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 local government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020. Examples of "Tangible Goods" would include, but are not limited to, personal protection and medical equipment, sanitation and disinfectant products, software, laptops and technology equipment necessary for employees to telecommute. "Services" as used in this definition means actions or intangible things which were performed by individuals who are not municipal employees. Further, "Expenses" shall include payroll costs for municipal employees where such employees time was substantially dedicated to mitigating the spread or responding to the public health emergency and/or who have been reassigned from their budgeted role to a different function to substantially support COVID-19 related activities. "Expenses" shall not include the complete payroll costs for employees who are not substantially dedicated to the mitigation or response to the public health emergency, except as set forth in 5.1 of this Agreement. Expenses may also include economic development programs designed to support and defray the costs of local businesses (within the geographic boundaries of Guilford County) negatively impacted by the executive orders which required such businesses be closed or have their operations seriously curtailed.

C. All other words used in this agreement which are not specifically defined shall have their normal and ordinary meaning.

1.3 Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a contractual relationship between the County and Municipality with regards to the proposed reimbursement of municipal expenses associated with the coronavirus emergency from federal CARES Act funds which the United States Federal Government has disbursed to the County. This agreement shall remain in effect between the parties to govern the form of applications for reimbursement, the review of applications, the criteria for reimbursable expenses, the retention of documents, and other material terms governing the processing of reimbursement applications.

2.0 Obligations of the County

2.1 Generally. The County, by and through its Emergency Management and Finance Departments, shall review and process requests for reimbursement received by Municipality subject to the requirements set forth herein.

2.2 Submittal does not guarantee approval. The County, by receiving and processing the reimbursement requests of Municipality, does not guarantee approval of the reimbursement requests by the County Emergency Management, the Guilford County Finance Department, the United States Department of Treasury, or the Office of the Inspector General.

2.3 No further obligations. The County shall have no further obligations under this IGA other than those expressly set forth.

3.0 Obligations of the Municipality

3.1 Generally. In order to submit requests for reimbursement of coronavirus emergency related expenditures, Municipality agrees to submit the forms, certifications and documentations set forth in this agreement for any expense for which Municipality seeks reimbursement under this Agreement. Municipality agrees that the sole and exclusive decision as to whether or not Municipalities request is granted lies within the discretion of Guilford County, and that submission of expenses for reimbursement does not obligate the County to agree to reimburse those expenses.

Municipality agrees that the County, through its Emergency Management and Finance Departments, may reject expenses which are clearly not permitted uses for CARES ACT funds such as using the funds for revenue replacement.

4.0 Form of Expense Submittals, Certification, failure to use form or comply with criteria

4.1 Generally. The Parties agree that expenses for which Municipality seeks reimbursement shall be submitted in a manner and on forms created by the County. County will ensure that the forms and process properly balance administrative convenience to the Parties and provide sufficient information for the County to issue a reimbursement. A separate reimbursement request form shall be submitted for each separate type of expenditure.

4.2 Certification. Each request for reimbursement shall be accompanied by a certification wherein the Mayor certifies that the expenses for which Municipality seeks reimbursement: (i) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019, (ii) which were not accounted for in the most recently approved budget of the municipality, as of March 27, 2020, (iii) were incurred during the period between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. By entering into this agreement, Municipality authorizes its Mayor to sign such certification on behalf of Municipality.

4.3 Failure to comply with Department of Treasury Guidelines. The County reserves the right to reject any reimbursement which it feels, in its sole and exclusive discretion, does not meet the criteria of the CARES Act or United States Department of Treasury guidelines associated with disbursement of funds under the CARES Act.

5.0 Expenses to be reimbursed; Caps of maximum amount of reimbursements available to Municipality; prohibition on duplicate reimbursement.

5.1 Municipality may submit expenses as set forth in section 1.2(c) of this Agreement. Where submitted expenses are seeking reimbursement for employee payroll costs, the County requires that the expenses be separated into two categories. The first category shall be employees whose time was substantially dedicated to mitigating the spread or responding to the public health emergency and/or who

have been reassigned from their budgeted role to a different function to substantially support COVID-19 related activities. For purposes of this section "substantially dedicated" shall mean that sixty percent (60%) or more of the employees' time was dedicated to mitigating the spread or responding to the public health emergency related to COVID-19. Municipality may submit, and the County will consider, reimbursing 100% of the salary of "substantially dedicated" employees. The second category shall consist of employees whose time is not "substantially dedicated" to mitigating the spread of or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but who have spent some portion of their compensated time (but less than sixty percent (60%)) mitigating the spread of or responding to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The Municipality may submit, and the County will consider, reimbursing payroll in the amount of the proportion of the individual employees' time spent mitigating the spread of or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. For example, if an employee spent twenty percent (20%) of his or her compensated time mitigating the spread of or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the municipality may submit for reimbursement of twenty percent (20%) of the employees' salary during the period of time in which the employee was engaging in COVID-19 related responses.

- 5.2** Municipality shall seek reimbursement from FEMA Public Assistance for eligible expenditures prior to requesting reimbursement of the Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation. Documentation shall be provided for FEMA denials or partial funding. Municipality shall not be entitled to reimbursement of expenses for which it has received reimbursement from another State, or federal program designed to reimburse local government for costs associated with the coronavirus emergency or other emergencies. If Municipality receives reimbursement from any program referenced above, Municipality shall refund any duplicate reimbursement to the County.
- 5.3** Under this program, Municipality shall receive reimbursement, in aggregate, no more than \$1,113,220.00 for COVID-19 eligible response and recovery expenses. All

reimbursement requests shall be submitted no later than December 1, 2020.

6.0 Cooperation

- 6.1 The County shall assist Municipality in complying with the requirements of the CARES Act and the United States Department of Treasury guidelines by preparing forms and providing feedback and guidance with regards to the type and quality of information required to complete such forms.
- 6.2 Municipality agrees to abide by the terms of the CARES Act and all United States Department of Treasury guidelines.
- 6.3 Municipality shall, at the County's request, supply County with all relevant information for the County to evaluate whether a request for reimbursement meets the criteria under the CARES Act and United States Department of Treasury guidelines.

7.0 Records

- 7.1 Municipality shall maintain all records relating to the expenses which Municipality seeks to have reimbursed by County from CARES Act funds for a period of at least ten (10) years or the period of time required by other state or federal law, whichever is longer.
- 7.2 At any time, Guilford County, the Guilford County Finance Department, or the Guilford County Internal Auditor, may request that the Municipality provide records relating to the expenses which Municipality seeks to have reimbursed. Municipality agrees to provide records in response to such requests.
- 7.3 Failure to provide records may result in the denial of the reimbursement request. In circumstances where the reimbursement request has been granted and the records are needed to justify the reimbursement to the Office of the Inspector General or any other office, official, or department which may later become responsible for auditing disbursements of CARES Act funds, failure by Municipality to provide these records, for any reason including the prior destruction of these records, shall constitute a breach of this Agreement. The sole and exclusive remedy for such a breach is that Municipality shall be responsible for repayment of any disbursement which the Office of Inspector General, or its successor, finds improper,

unsupported, or unable to be verified. Additionally, Municipality agrees to indemnify the County or make the County whole for any penalty assessed against the County based upon Municipality's failure to retain or provide records.

8.0 Timeliness.

8.1 The Parties agree that time is of the essence in the processing of applications for reimbursement. The County shall use all reasonable speed and diligence in the processing of applications for reimbursement.

8.2 The Parties agree that time is of the essence in communications seeking supporting documents or requesting records under this agreement. The Parties agree that they shall use all reasonable speed and diligence in responding to requests for records or supporting documents.

9.0 Indemnity.

9.1 The Parties agree that where the County relied upon the certification of the Municipality that such expenses which Municipality sought to have reimbursed from CARES Act funds met the minimum requirements of the CARES Act, and where the Office of the Inspector General, or any other person, official, or department which is charged with the auditing and review of expenditures of CARES Act funds determines that such reimbursement was not permitted under the CARES Act, Municipality agrees to indemnify, reimburse and make whole the County for any funds which the United States Government or its agencies seeks to recoup or collect, either by litigation, or by withholding other federal funds owed to the County. Municipality further agrees to indemnify, reimburse, or make whole the County for any penalties associated with the federal government seeking to recoup the expended CARES Act funds which the County disbursed to Municipality including interest, or any penalty provided by law.

9.2 Municipality agrees to hold County harmless for any evaluation or advice which the County provided to Municipality as to whether the requested reimbursement is a permissible use of the CARES Act funds.

10.0 Term and termination

10.1 Term. This Agreement shall remain in effect until either party provides written notice of termination to the other.

Such notice shall be effective 14 days after receipt of the termination.

10.2 Survival of Terms. Those terms relating to the party's obligation to maintain records and provide records, and the Municipality's indemnification of the County shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

11.0 Amendment

11.1 Amendments to this Agreement may be performed with the written consent of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners and Municipal governing board.

12.0 Notices and duplicate copies.

12.1 Written notices required pursuant to this Agreement and all other correspondence between the parties shall be directed to the following and shall be deemed received when hand-delivered or three (3) days after being sent by certified mail, return receipt requested or electronic mail:

Guilford County: Marty K. Lawing
County Manager

301 W. Market Street
Greensboro North Carolina 27402

With a copy to:

Guilford County Attorney's Office
ATTN: Mark Payne

301 W. Market Street
Greensboro, North Carolina 27402

Municipality: Randy McCaslin
Interim, City Manager
High Point City Manager
PO Box 230
High Point, NC 27261

With Copies to:

JoAnne Carlyle
High Point City Attorney

12.2 The Parties agree that this agreement may be entered into using identical counterparts, each of which when executed and delivered to the other party shall constitute a duplicate original, but all counterparts together shall constitute a single agreement. Upon ratification by the governing board of the respective parties, the parties shall each transmit the signed counterparts of this agreement to the other using the recipients listed above in Section 12.1 of this Agreement. This agreement shall go into effect immediately upon the ratification of the last party to execute this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement, using duplicate counterparts, on the dates listed below.

COUNTY OF GUILFORD:

City of High Point:

Jeffrey M. Phillips

Jay Wagner

Chairman

Mayor

Attest: _____

Attest: _____

Robin B. Keller
County Clerk to the Board
Date:_____

Lisa B. Vierling
City Clerk
Date:_____