



# Town of Johnstown

## OWN COUNCIL AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS

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**AGENDA DATE:** October 19, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Support for Local Food Pantries

**ACTION PROPOSED:** Provide Funding to Three Local Food Pantries that Serve the Town of Johnstown

**PRESENTED BY:** Matt LeCerf, Town Manager

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### AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:

As part of the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal Government passed the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES) Act. The Town of Johnstown was fortunate to receive an allocation of this funding that came directly through the State of Colorado. This allocation was distributed among the counties and for Johnstown specifically, this is represented from an allocated based on population percentage within both Weld and Larimer Counties. In total, the Town's allocation from the two counties totals up to \$667,418.

The Council has previously the desire to help our local food pantries in the community which in turn, helps our residents during this difficult time of need. There are currently three food pantries in the community that are primary distributors to Johnstown families in need including the Milliken Presbyterian Church, Grace Community Church, and St John the Baptist Church. I have had the opportunity to discuss the potential of providing a small amount of funding dedicated directly to the food pantries to help support their efforts for the community and to be sure they would accept a donation. This is an eligible expense under the CARES Act and one that would provide significant benefit to those families in need. The funding associated with the CARES Act needs to be distributed and expended no later than December 30, 2020. If the funds are not expended by December 30, 2020, they must be returned to the Treasury Department. While the Town has incurred significant expenses due to the pandemic, including network improvements for telecommuting, micro-grant distributions for our local businesses, and PPE to name a few items, there are still funds available that could be used for this purpose.

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The purpose of this action item is to establish and determine if the Council is supportive of providing funding to the local food pantries. If supported by Council, Staff's recommendation is that we provide each of these food pantries with an allocation of \$5,000 each that would be reimbursable through the CARES Act. The total aggregate cost expended would be \$15,000 and this would significantly help our local food pantries which have experienced a significant uptick from families in need and distribution of food during this difficult time.

**LEGAL ADVICE:**

Not Applicable.

**FINANCIAL ADVICE:**

The cost associated with supporting our local food pantries are reimbursable through the CARES Act.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommends approval of financial support for the three local food pantries that serve the Town of Johnstown.

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**SUGGESTED MOTIONS:**

**For Approval**

I move to approve financial support to the local food pantries in the community with an allocation of \$5,000 for each panty, totaling \$15,000.

**For Denial**

I move to deny financial support to the local food pantries in the community with an allocation of \$5,000 for each panty, totaling \$15,000.

*Reviewed and Approved for Presentation,*

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Town Manager

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