

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS OF 2021 TO ESTABLISH A COVID-19 WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND A RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR A TOTAL ALLOCATION AMOUNT OF \$225,000.00 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, an ARPA Agreement was entered into between the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management (the "Division") and City of Pahokee (the "Non-Entitlement Unit" or "Recipient") on September 7, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The State of Florida, through the Division, will made a disbursement of each non-entitlement unit of local government's allocation. The total Fiscal Recovery Funds allocation for Recipient under the ARPA Agreement is Three Million, One Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand, Eight Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$3,162,890.00) received in two (2) tranches; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pahokee desires to establish a COVID-19 Water Assistance Grant Program and a Rental Assistance Program for a combined total amount not to exceed Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000.00) utilizing ARPA funds; and

WHEREAS, for the program pertaining to the COVID-19 Water Assistance Grant Program, the amount that may be awarded to any single family household shall not exceed \$500.00, as set forth by the program terms attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, for the program pertaining to Rental Assistance, the total amount that may be awarded to any single family household shall not exceed \$1,5000.00, as set forth by the program terms attached hereto as Exhibit "B"; and

WHEREAS, approval of the COVID-19 Water Assistance Grant Program and the Rental Assistance Program are in the best interest of the City of Pahokee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Adoption of Representations. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. Authorization of City Manager. The City Commission of the City of Pahokee Florida hereby authorizes the use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds of 2021 for the establishment of a COVID-19 Water Assistance Grant Program and a Rental Assistance Program, as attached hereto as Exhibits “A” and “B”. The City Commission further authorizes the City Manager to expend funds up to a total allocation amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$225,000.00) for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 28th day of February 2023.

Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Tijuana Warner, CMC, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

Burnadette Norris-Weeks, P.A.
City Attorney

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

VOTE:

Mayor Babb	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Vice Mayor Murvin	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Boldin	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Gonzalez	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Perez	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)

EXHIBIT A
City of Pahokee
COVID-19 Water Assistance Grant Program Guidelines

The City of Pahokee Water Assistance Grant Program (the "Program") is designed to provide City of Pahokee households emergency utility assistance for up to two consecutive months for up to \$500 (maximum award), on a first come first serve basis. The Program shall be made available to single family households within City boundaries, including City residents served by Palm Beach County Water Utilities. Amounts delinquent prior to March 1, 2020 are not eligible for assistance.

To qualify for the program, residents must live within the City of Pahokee and have lost income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This Program will be subject to funding availability and verification of application documents and information.

The City will not issue payments directly to applicants, but rather payments will be sent directly to the utility provider.

Qualified Costs

(Tenants and Homeowners)

Water customers from March 1, 2020 to present.

Costs that are NOT eligible: delinquent water/sewer payments prior to March 1, 2020.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a US citizen permanent resident or granted legal status.
- Must reside in the City of Pahokee for at least one (1) year.
- Must have household income of 80% AMI or less in order to qualify for the funding and a household income of up to 140% AMI to qualify for City contributed general funds. Applicants must be within the following income range, adjusted for family size.
- Must not have liquid assets or other sources of capital from where utilities can be paid.
- Applicant must not have received utilities assistance from other federal, state and/or local program for the unit in which the applicant resides for the same month(s) requested in application (Duplication of Benefit).
- Must not have a conflict of interest with a member of City staff or Commissioners, or, if such a conflict arises, will follow procedures for a Waiver of Conflict of Interest (see certification).

Application Procedures

Application must be completed in its entirety. Applications are processed on a first ready, first served basis. Incomplete applications will be rejected until completed. Payments will be made directly to the utility provider.

All required documentation must be provided. Application will not be processed without required documentation. Incomplete applications may lose their place in line or be disqualified.

Required Documentation (Copies Only)

1. Proof of legal residency for all adults living at the residence: Ex. Copy of passport, alien resident card or government issued picture ID along with documentation that proves legal status in the US.
2. Copy of most recent water utility bill.
3. Proof of income for 2020/2021 and the last 60-days from all sources for all household members. Ex. Copy of paystubs, unemployment letter, Social Security Award letter, etc.
4. Proof of hardship due to COVID-19. Ex. Job termination letter, unemployment verification letter or other proof of job loss or reduced hours on or after March 1, 2020.

Program Monitoring

For the next three (3) month period after the award of the grant, applicant is required to report any changes to living conditions, employment, and assistance for the file.

The City of Pahokee reserves the right to deny any submitted application if it is determined such application does not meet the spirit, intent and/or legal requirements for the program offered. Failure to comply with the preceding requirements or otherwise breaches of any grant requirements will result in the grantee being responsible to repay the grant amount awarded back to the City of Pahokee.

EXHIBIT B

City of Pahokee COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program

In response to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) the City of Pahokee will provide much needed rental assistance, covering rent payments for up to two months (including in arrears) to alleviate the housing burden for low income households that have experienced an economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistance will be capped at \$225,000 and could include first, last and security deposit and relocation assistance. Amounts in arrears prior to March 1, 2020 are not eligible for assistance.

The goal of the Rental Assistance Program is to alleviate financial pressure for low-to-moderate income households as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to provide greater economic security to tenants and rental property owners.

Funds will be used for eviction prevention due to a hardship caused by COVID-19 for rent payments not to exceed 2 months, from March 1, 2020 to current. Assistance can include rent in arrears and charges, and rent payments to prevent eviction. It can also be used for housing re-entry assistance, such as security deposits.

Once the City receives the complete application package, the file will be reviewed for eligibility. Client eligibility will be determined based on the following requirements:

1. Renters living in the City of Pahokee
2. At least one person in the household must have a financial hardship from COVID-19 (i.e. reduced work hours, laid off, childcare closed, etc.)
3. At least one person in the household must have a risk of homelessness or housing instability (i.e. received past due notice or eviction notice)
4. The assistance requested if for an eligible use
5. The total household income is at or below 140% of the area median income

All payments made on behalf of the applicant will be paid directly to the landlord or other eligible third party.

Under no circumstance will the payment be made directly to the household.

All applicants will be served on a first eligible, first serve basis with ARPA funds, while funds last.