



For Immediate Release

Date: October 1, 2020

Press Release 029: October 2020 CARES Update

The City of Craig is eligible to receive up to \$1,772,564 from the Federal Government passed through the State of Alaska for expenditures in response to and to aid in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The aid is generally referred to as CARES funding and was allocated through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The Craig City Council allocated CARES funding to be used for a number of grant programs so far, designed to provide assistance to businesses, individuals and non-profits. Throughout the month of October and November, the Council will consider additional programs.

The United States Department of Treasury passed the funding to municipalities with a number of restrictions in place:

1. Individuals and organizations benefiting from CARES funding must be able to demonstrate an economic impact as a result of COVID-19.
2. Funds must be used for expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

The city is using the funds for a number of eligible expenses, including financial assistance to businesses, non-profits and individuals/families in Craig.

PAST PROGRAMS: The City Council accepted two rounds of applications from businesses and non-profits and approved about \$250,000 in direct grants to 60 business and non-profit organizations within the City of Craig (or non-profits that provide services in the City of Craig).

In cooperation with Alaska Power & Telephone, an application for Electric Utility Assistance was mailed to each Craig household. Applications were due by 5 p.m. on October 5th, 2020. Should the City decide to extend the deadline, the new deadline information will be published online at www.craigak.com. Based on the number of applications and funds allocated for this program by the Craig City Council, each eligible household should receive about \$120 in electric utility relief.

CURRENT PROGRAMS: The City Council will continue to consider individual requests from non-profit organizations who propose to provide services to Craig residents who have been impacted by the pandemic, or who require operational support as a result of economic impacts related to COVID. Non-profit organizations in need of assistance should begin by sending an email to: cares@craigak.com.

HOPE, POWER, and the Craig Child Care Center are all administering individual programs funded by City of Craig CARES funding. If you have been impacted by COVID and need assistance with child care expenses or emergency assistance (rent, utilities, fuel, food), please contact these organizations directly.

The City of Craig will be offering a program at the Craig Youth Center where students will have access to the internet and an on-site tutor. Currently, the city is seeking qualified applicants to staff the youth center and anticipates hiring three part-time temporary employees to do so. Applications are available at City Hall and a complete job description is available on the city's website. Recreation Director Victoria Merritt will be administering this program.

FUTURE PROGRAMS: At the October 8th City Council meeting, the Council will consider a Rent & Mortgage Assistance Program. If approved, the application period is expected to open on October 9th, 2020. Related information and forms will be posted online at www.craigak.com.

City staff may propose a number of additional programs to the Council for their consideration. These programs include but are not limited to: assistance to non-profit organizations, another round of business funding, assistance to households for life flight insurance, and economic assistance for commercial fisherman.

In closing, please monitor the City's website for program announcements and related forms. Also, watch for yellow postcards arriving in the mail from the City of Craig, which will include updates on existing and future programs.

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Contact information for City of Craig departments and services.

Craig Aquatic Center	826-2794	pool@craigak.com
Craig City Hall	826-3275	info@craigak.com
Craig EMS	826-4857	ems@craigak.com
Craig Harbormaster	826-3404	harbors@craigak.com
Craig Police	826-3330	re44@craigpd.com
Craig Public Facilities	826-3408	facilities@craigak.com
Craig Public Library	826-3281	library@craigak.com
Craig Public Works	826-3405	publicworks@craigak.com
Craig Recreation Department	826-2575	craigrec@aptalaska.net