

Councilmember Scott Murphy-Update to NW Neighborhood (5/21/20)

CARES Program

The Everett Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Grant Program is made possible by funding provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the CARES Act in response to the COVID-19 Crisis. Funds are intended to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 impacts. Funding is designed to serve low- to moderate-income persons and households.

A total of \$1 Million has been made available under the CARES Grant Program;

1. \$500,000 allocated for Economic Development Relief and
2. \$500,000 allocated for public services.

At this time, the application process for economic development grants is closed. Applications are only open at this time for agencies providing public services.

Priority will be given to agencies addressing the basic needs, including access to food and housing security.

Funds are provided as a reimbursable grant, for expenses incurred from April 30, 2020 – May 1, 2021.

Priorities

On April 23, 2020, the Citizen Advisory Committee determined the following priorities for Everett CARES Funding for public services:

- Access to Food
- Housing security
- Agencies serving communities of color, immigrant, and non-English speaking persons
- Agencies with programs or partnerships that address equity (partnerships must already be in place; funds must be administered a.s.a.p. and cannot be used for unsecured partnership)

Agencies that do not provide food or housing security may still apply, however will be considered for funding only after agencies addressing priorities are awarded.

Additional priorities for CARES funds determined by HUD:

- Must benefit low- to moderate-income individuals
- Must benefit persons impacted by COVID-19

Everett Transit-Analysis of Options

Professional Services Agreement

On March 18, 2020, council authorized entering into a professional services agreement with the transit consulting firm Nelson/Nygaard.

Outreach

The team has now finalized its first phase outreach program. It will begin next week. This phase includes an on-line engagement process (a brief survey gauging values and interest in receiving project updates and participating in future phases of this project). The public will be invited to participate via information on the buses as well as on the city website. An invitation to participate will also be included in the monthly utility bill (for two months). This phase is anticipated to last until mid-July.

Additionally, more than 80 stakeholders representing a variety of interests have been identified to participate in "one on one" interviews (most via electronic platforms). Example stakeholders include the public sector (e.g. Port of Everett), the private sector (e.g. manufacturing, auto retail), private non-profits (e.g. United Way), service clubs (e.g. Rotary), city neighborhood associations, transportation groups (e.g. Cascade Bicycle Club), and the health care sector.

Council Briefing

Once completed, council will be briefed on the results of this first phase, as well as receiving an update on the project's financial modeling and initial service options' development. That briefing will probably occur in late July

City Staffing Update

Furloughs

Sixty (60) AFSCME employees were placed on furlough as of May 3rd. We've since brought back 10 team members or allowable maintenance as the governor has released some restrictions. The 50 current furloughed employees are out for up to 6 weeks, which could be extended an additional two weeks if needed. Furloughs beyond this timeline require further negotiations with the Unions.

Twenty (20) Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) employees are currently on furlough as well.

Voluntary Separation Program

56 team members participate in the VSP program. 21 of these positions will be permanently eliminated following staff members voluntary separation. The positions include the following 19 regular and 2 seasonal positions:

- Administration: 3 executive directors and 1 executive assistant
- Parks/ Rec: 2 recreation coordinators
- Legal: 1 Assistant city attorney
- Cultural Arts: 1 manager
- Planning: 1 planner
- Library: 2 pages (seasonal positions)
- Community Development: 1 Neighborhood and community engagement coordinator
- Everett Transit: 6 bus operators
- Public Works: 1 Sr. Wastewater Operator, 1 Sr. Engineer in Utilities, and 1 M&O Supervisor in Utilities

Layoffs

There have been 16 full time employees laid off. By Department:

- Transit 1
- Utilities 1
- Parks 1

- Recreation 4
- Senior Center 4
- Facilities 2
- Library 3

There have been 65 part-time employees who lost their positions in 2020 due to either a program elimination or the Governor's Orders. Part time positions called "Day Laborers" are seasonal in nature:

- Finance 1
- Engineering 1
- Parks 14
- Recreation 27
- Senior Center 2
- Library 20

2021 Budget process update

1. Calendar in development (process starting up in June)
2. Opportunity for public input
 - a. Survey
 - b. Public comment
3. COVID 19 Revenue and expense impacts to be continually updated
4. Goal is to bring Quality of life services back online as soon as possible from a safety and financial standpoint
5. Process to be completed by end of November.