



**You Ask, We Answer:
COVID-19 Funding Assistance for Residents**

What funding is available right now for Red Wing residents who have been affected financially by COVID-19? If you have been negatively affected by COVID-19 and need financial assistance with everyday bills, help is available. City Council and staff have worked with United Way and other local agencies to provide funding for the following needs: Rent and mortgage bills, City past-due utility bills, and childcare payments. Here is how to access those dollars:

Rent or Mortgage Bills: (\$90,000 available):

Contact HOPE Coalition: 651-388-9360 Ext. 2

City of Red Wing Utility Assistance: (\$150,000 available)

Help goes toward City past-due utility bills. These bills are from the City of Red Wing for your water, sewer, garbage, and recycling fees (not gas and electricity bills that come from other companies). Both homeowners and tenants are eligible. Residents can apply for up to \$500 in assistance and can reapply every two months until the program's funds are gone. Contact the City's Public Works Department at 651-385-3674. You can also find a Spanish and English application at www.red-wing.org/488/Utility-Assistance-Program.

Childcare Payments: (\$47,500 available)

School District's Kids Junction (at Burnside, Sunnyside, Jefferson, and Twin Bluff): Contact Justin at jjplein@rwps.org.

Peach Tree Program at the Y: Contact Heather at 651-800-9444 or hkahl@redwingymca.org.

HOPE Coalition: Contact JoAnn at jmnamara@hope-coalition.org or 651-388-9360 Ext. 2.

Red Wing Youth Outreach: Contact Mandy at 651-388-3371 or redwingyouthoutreach@gmail.com.

Where did these funds come from? The funds came from the federal government's CARES Act—the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act—that were distributed in 2020 to cities across the country, including Red Wing, to assist with COVID-19 in multiple ways. City Council felt a significant proportion of that money should go directly to businesses and

residents who were negatively affected by COVID-19. So, Council and staff collaborated with local partners who work on the ground every day to help residents. The City values these partners and the work they do to assist our neighbors in crucial ways.

What about funds for local small businesses and nonprofits? Since the pandemic began, the Red Wing Port Authority, which is an arm of the City of Red Wing, has set aside \$1.2 million dollars to aid local small businesses and organizations. The Port has distributed funds so far in three phases.

--*Phase 1: The Port Authority's Industrial Loan Fund.* These funds were already established at the Port for industries and manufacturing. However, thanks to Governor Walz's Emergency Executive Order #20-15, the Port was able to expand the parameters of this loan program to assist service and retail establishments, as well. The Port provided \$482,500 to 52 businesses during this phase.

--*Phase 2: The Port Authority's COVID Impact Loan Program.* This phase utilized funding from two different revolving loan programs through the Port. The Port designated \$170,000 from its Downtown Revolving Loan Fund and \$300,000 from its Intermediary Relending Program for COVID-19 assistance. Currently, the Port has assisted 10 businesses with a total of \$169,700 during this phase. The Port still has \$270,300 available and is taking applications. It is worth noting, however, that this opportunity is a loan process, not a grant.

--*Phase 3: The CARES Relief 911 Grant Program.* City Council directed \$250,000 from the City's overall CARES money to be distributed by the Port Authority. To date, the Port has granted \$234,500 to help 41 local businesses and organizations. The remaining \$15,500 will be granted in April from a long list of applicants.

For more Port Authority information, people can contact Shari Chorney at 651-385-3639 or shari.chorney@ci.red-wing.mn.us.

Will there be more dollars coming to Red Wing? Yes, Red Wing will receive important financial aid over the next two years from the federal government's new \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. Currently, Red Wing estimates it will receive roughly \$1.8 million dollars, though that amount is not set and the situation is very fluid right now. These funds will need to be spent before December 31, 2024.

Statewide programs will also have funding in the near future, in addition to what Red Wing will receive. For example, to help landlords and tenants, Minnesota will receive \$375 million for the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Households, including those in mobile homes, may be eligible for up to 15 months assistance total starting with past-due rent bills dating back to March of 2020. In addition, landlords will be able to apply for this funding with a tenant's consent and participation. More information about this and many other assistance programs will come soon from the state.

For more information, contact Community Engagement Facilitator Michelle Leise at 651-212-3812 / michelle.leise@ci.red-wing.mn.us or Marshall Hallock, Administrative Business Director at 651-385-3602 / marshall.hallock@ci.red-wing.mn.us. To sign up for the City's free online bi-monthly newsletter City Beat, visit www.ci.red-wing.org/citybeat.