

## COVID - City and County COVID Community Needs Assistance Programs

**Description:** During the COVID19 pandemic several local government efforts have been developed to assist individuals financially impacted by the pandemic.

- 1. City COVID-19 Household Assistance Program** – \$500 prepaid debit cards were distributed to community members during two different periods. To be eligible, applicants must be at least 18 years old, live in the City of Portland, have experienced a loss of income due to COVID-19, and have household income at or below 80% of Area Median Income. Applications were online only at <http://www.pdxassist.com>

The first round of applications was open on two dates in the final week of October - Tuesday October 27th at 9am and Friday October 30th at 1pm. They were given out to qualified applicants on a first-come-first-serve basis and the online application windows closed after only 3 minutes due to excessive demand. A total of 2,800 cards were given out during those two application windows. These cards were given out through the **United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, 503-228-9181, [communications@unitedway-pdx.org](mailto:communications@unitedway-pdx.org)**

A second round ran Thursday 12/10/20 from 3-6pm. All qualified applications (nearly 100,000) received during this period were entered in a "lottery". Approximately 4,000 households were selected to receive these cards. Applicants were notified by 12/30/20 if they were selected and cards were distributed by the end of the year 2020.

If individuals received a debit card but are having issues activating it or if they were told they were going to receive a card but did not, they should contact the **Housing Bureau via phone and/or email – 503-200-3367, [info@pdxassist.com](mailto:info@pdxassist.com), [anna.shook@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:anna.shook@portlandoregon.gov)**. If the card they received was part of the first October distribution the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette would be their first point of contact - **United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, 503-228-9181, [communications@unitedway-pdx.org](mailto:communications@unitedway-pdx.org)**

By the end of 2020 the City's Housing Bureau estimates 27,000 Portland households will have been helped through this program with the bulk of the total \$15 million Household Assistance Program being given out through partner social service community organizations. If an individual received a card from a community organization and they are having trouble with the card or were told by the community organization they were going to receive a card but did not they should first try contacting the community organization directly or the Housing Bureau for assistance at [anna.shook@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:anna.shook@portlandoregon.gov) as a secondary option.

Complaints about the program can be referred to the Housing Bureau and/or Commissioner Ryan's Office.

- 2. The City ECC Food Security Project** is providing funding to nonprofit community organizations to provide food boxes and gift cards for community member clients that are in need. Dashboard that includes data on numbers of food boxes, PDX CARES cards, etc. and information about which community partners they have worked with: [ECC Food Security Dashboard - Smartsheet.com](#). If individuals are having issues with promised assistance they should first try contacting the community organization they worked with and secondarily they can contact Christina Wienholz, [christina.wienholz@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:christina.wienholz@portlandoregon.gov) who can help get them get in contact with an appropriate advocate.

**3. Multnomah County Food Justice Initiative** also provides funding to community organizations to provide food access to communities of color navigating poverty. **Staff Contact at County Youth & Family Services Division: Terralyn Wiley, 971-413-2818, [terralyn.wiley@multco.us](mailto:terralyn.wiley@multco.us)** List of organization this initiative has provided funding to (Note some of these organizations are also organizations the City ECC Food Security Project is working with). If individuals are having issues with promised assistance they should first try contacting the community organization they worked with and secondarily they can contact Terralyn (email best). Community Organizations they have worked with:

AFC Urgent Care  
Albina Head Start  
African Family Holistic Health Organization  
African Women's Coalition  
APANO Communities United Fund  
Asian Health & Services Center  
Black Parent Initiative  
Black & Beyond the Binary Collective  
Brown Hope  
Central City Concern  
Elevate Oregon  
Ethiopian and Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center  
Greater New Hope  
IRCO  
Living Islands Non-Profit  
Miracles Club  
Muslim Educational Trust  
North by Northeast Community Health Center  
NW Family Services  
Outgrowing Hunger  
Pueblo Unido  
Samoa Pacific Development Corporation  
Somali American Council Of Oregon  
Spect-Actors Collective  
Straightway Services  
Togo Community Organization of Oregon  
Tongan Community  
Utopia PDX  
Womenfirst

**For information on State assistance programs like Food Stamps (SNAP), Unemployment Insurance, COVID Temporary Paid Leave and Oregon Worker Relief Funds see database or guide on COVID State Info and Resources.**