
From: Leslie Martinez <lmartinez@leadershipcounsel.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 07, 2020 9:16 AM
To: BOSComments
Subject: Agend Item 7 - 7/7

Chairman Mendes and Supervisors,

First, we would like to thank the public works staff for making time to talk through some of our questions and concerns regarding the CDBG-CV project list.

Per our conversation, it is our understanding that staff looked towards the CAO and the public health department to allocate these dollars to address the county's more urgent needs as related to COVID-19. Unfortunately, there was no effort to reach out to CBOs or community leaders to gather input on what those urgent needs are, nor was there any effort to look through the comments given by residents at past public hearings and public comment periods. While we appreciate investments in emergency shelters and public health outreach but remain concerned that there is no allocation for other identified community needs with respect to COVID-19. Specifically, the proposed project list does not include any of the various priorities that community residents have been raising since the beginning of the pandemic, such as, rental assistance, utility assistance, broadband access, cash assistance, food distributions located in DUCs and support for children at home, all which are eligible uses for the CDBG dollars.

We ask that this board redirect funds for emergency assistance and broadband infrastructure improvements in unincorporated communities to address the growing urgent needs of the most vulnerable individuals in the county.

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