



# Chatham County Board of Commissioners

124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

For Immediate Release

September 1, 2020

### **Chatham County Board of Commissioners Approves Distribution of COVID-19 Funding to Community Agencies**

**Chatham County, GA (September 1, 2020)** – The Chatham County Board of Commissioners has approved the distribution of \$1.9 million to external community agencies. These funds will provide Chatham County residents with housing and utility costs, food, and small business grants. Additionally, some of the funds will help local agencies purchase equipment and PPE (personal protective equipment) to provide services more safely to County residents.

The County's COVID-19 Project, which includes savings generated by the CARES Act, provides funding for these programs. Six agencies were awarded funds.

- United Way of the Coastal Empire will receive \$1,000,000 to support residents who are unable to pay housing and utility costs due to COVID-19. Residents can apply for assistance by dialing 2-1-1 after September 7, 2020. The County's program will assist County residents who reside outside of the City of Savannah, as the City is providing a similar program for its residents.
- The Small Business Assistance Corporation (SBA) received \$400,000 to administer the BRG (business relief grant) program to support businesses located in the County that have experienced a loss of income or a hardship due to COVID-19. The County has allocated at least 20% of its funds for businesses in unincorporated Chatham County and 20% for MWBE companies (minority/women-owned businesses). The remaining funds are available for businesses in other municipalities, except businesses located within the City of Savannah, which are supported by a similar City program.
- America's Second Harvest will be awarded \$100,000 for county-wide food distribution. The funding will provide approximately 8,000 boxes of food (about 225,000 meals) to those qualifying for food assistance.
- Chatham Emergency Services, the provider for EMS services in Chatham County, will be reimbursed \$340,000 for PPE and sanitation equipment for their ambulances.

- Live Oak Public Libraries was provided \$30,000 for PPE and sanitation of library facilities.
- The Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless will receive \$50,000 pending an approved Memorandum of Understanding with specific strategies to aid in the fight against homelessness.

This distribution of funds is a reflection of Chatham County's priorities that align with the Chatham Community Blueprint and the ongoing efforts to assist our residents and business owners during trying times.

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