

# Lift Us Up, Keep Us Going

Washington County's Use of  
Coronavirus Relief Funds 2020





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# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

On February 28, 2020, Washington County became the first county in Oregon, and among the first in the United States, to report a case of COVID-19, a disease caused by a virus that was almost entirely new to our worldwide public health and medical systems by that point. Over one year later, our county, along with the rest of the world, continues to respond to what has become the first pandemic in many of our lifetimes. True to form, Washington County has attempted to pursue our response collaboratively, working alongside partner organizations including health and medical providers, state leaders and agencies such as Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority, cities, schools, special districts, private businesses and community-based organizations.

Together, our coalition quickly experienced the limits of our resources and capacity, even as we worked to focus our combined efforts. In addition, this new virus made clear the inequities in our systems that we knew existed but had not addressed.

With great support from Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Ron Wyden, Washington County became the recipient of \$104.66 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Our Board of County Commissioners took pains to make thoughtful but rapid decisions, compliant with federal requirements, around putting these one-time funds into the most positive use possible for the entire community. Our approach was also greatly informed by the county organization's first-ever Equity Resolution, which the board had adopted just days before the first reported case of COVID-19.

The story of how Washington County spent our share of federal coronavirus relief dollars is provided in this brief report. It is a story of heroic public service conducted collaboratively among government, nonprofit and private-sector organizations. It is also a story of what can happen when there is a collective will to remove barriers that have historically excluded people and to begin building more inclusive, equitable systems to support our physical and economic health.

We are grateful to everyone associated with the work described on the pages to follow, including our own Washington County employees and those of our partner organizations.

Thank you.

Kathryn Harrington  
Chair, Board of County  
Commissioners

Nafisa Fai  
County Commissioner,  
District 1

Pam Treece  
County Commissioner,  
District 2

Roy Rogers  
County Commissioner, District 3

Jerry Willey  
County Commissioner, District 4





## The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act

was signed into law on March 27, 2020, and provided a direct disbursement of federal aid of \$104.66 million to Washington County from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). This report shows how those federal funds were used and the impacts that these investment decisions of the Washington County Board of Commissioners have had on our community.

The board established priorities and principles for how these funds would be used to lift up the community through the pandemic during 2020 and keep the county and community going through the pandemic. These priorities and principles guided every program's decisions for the creation and execution of their mission. Inherent in all of the priorities and principles was the overarching requirement that the programs enact the equity expectations adopted by the Washington County Board's Equity Resolution.

### **PRIORITIES**

1. Provide the most positive impact for the most amount of people
2. Maintain adherence to the CARES Act and guidelines provided by the Treasury

### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Protect public health
2. Stabilize our local economy
3. Support community-based organizations and nonprofits
4. Build public mental health and community psyche

To achieve these goals, allocations were made to 11 funding areas, including a contingency fund that was reallocated as further needs were identified. The 10 programs were designed to address the variety of needs in community - to lift us all up and to keep us all going.

Spreading these funds to meet the needs of our community took incredible work across all departments of the organization. It also required that Washington County lean in with partnerships - with fellow local governments to experienced service providers to community-based organizations - in order to be effective.

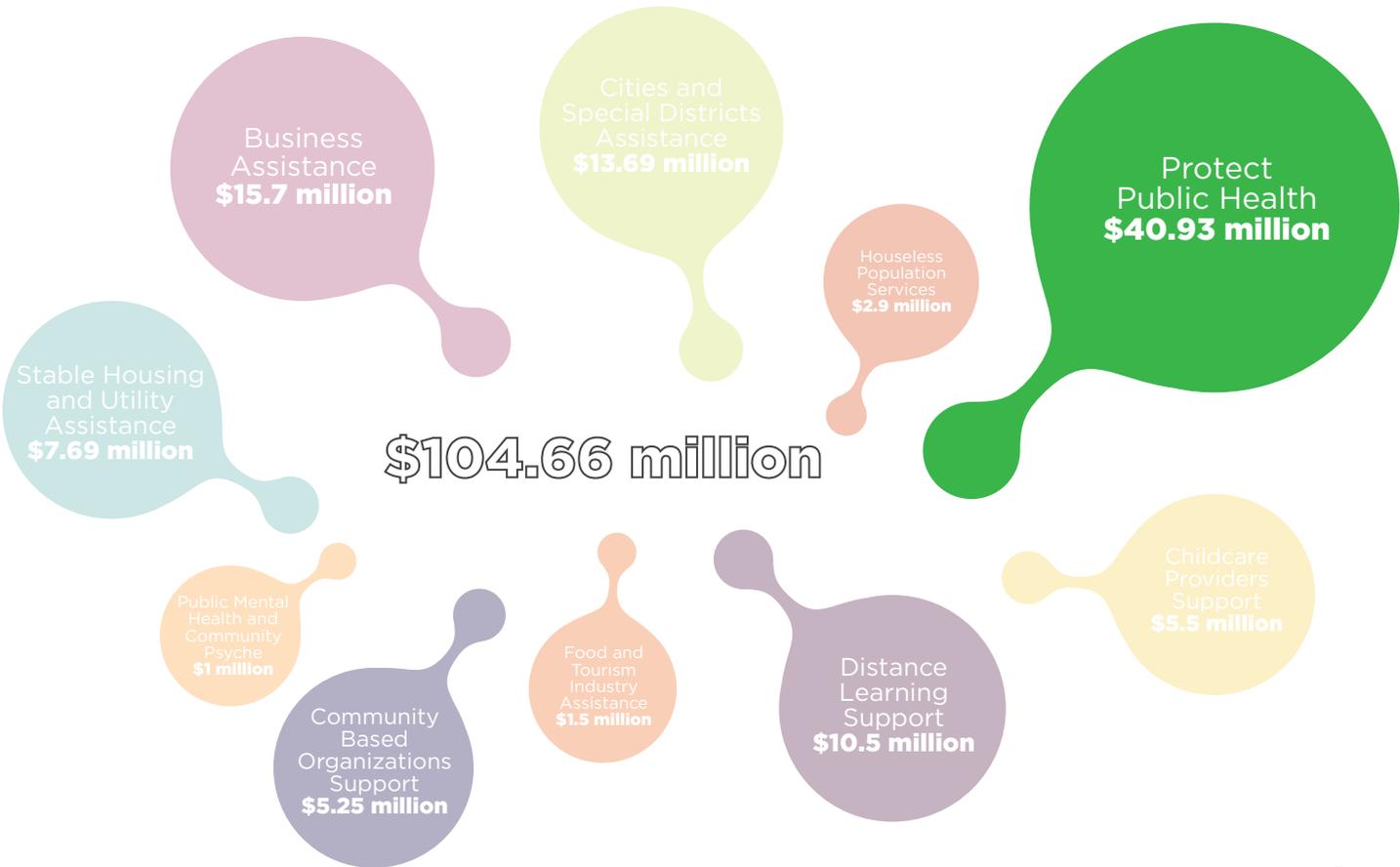
# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH



**Peak EOC Staffing from other county departments: 201 EMPLOYEES (ON MAY 20, 2020)**

## COUNTY PROGRAMS

In the context of a new disease and pandemic, the response required the ability for the county's work to rapidly change and adapt to the science and the community. It also required coordination, communication, and a much larger workforce than Washington County has ever had. Resources from the Coronavirus Relief Fund were deployed to address these needs. By investing in county work, we could reach into areas where those most impacted and those most vulnerable could be assisted in their recovery and keeping the rest of the community safer.



**\$104.66 million**

## Emergency Operations Center

One of the most effective tools that the county can use to create a coordinated response to major events is the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Our EOC was stood up to bring county departments and employees into a single structure to ensure that the work that was accomplished was not duplicative and remained coordinated. The EOC activation also allowed for better communication to the public by bringing together the communications and public affairs activities of every city, special district, hospital, clinic and school district operating within Washington County. By establishing an equity officer position within the EOC early in its activation, Washington County's response benefited from centering equity considerations in the decision-making process around the use of limited resources and assistance. As we all know, the virus causing COVID-19 is novel, and the science and information regarding its behavior changed often. The standards for community behavior and business operations changed swiftly as our knowledge grew over time and as state and federal guidance was amended. The EOC allowed the county to speak and act with one voice, based on the science.



All of our contact tracers are local residents, that was a value for us. We knew that people had lost jobs in our community and we were successful in recruiting this amazing and talented interview and contact tracing team.

- Tricia Mortell,  
Public Health Division Manager, on the  
COVID response team recruited by the  
Oregon Public Health Institute

## Contact Tracing

Diseases like COVID-19 move through a population when the conditions are right for spread, people are susceptible and the disease is contagious. Public health practitioners rely on tried and true disease mitigation measures, including case investigation and contact tracing, until an effective vaccine is distributed widely. Disease detective teams follow the trail of the disease through a community by interviewing a person with the disease (a case), asking about the people they have been near (contacts) and where they may have gotten sick (to determine possible outbreaks). Contact tracers then confidentially share information with cases and contacts and provide education about what they can do to keep themselves, their families, their neighbors and their community safe. These disease detective teams are the reason we, as a community, know who is most impacted and how to prevent the disease from spreading further.

Based on the size of Washington County, there was need for a robust team to conduct case investigation and contact tracing. We doubled the workforce of our Public Health Division, bringing in over 100 people from the community to do this work. By the end of 2020, over 16,000 cases of COVID-19 were investigated by our team and over 12,000 contacts were notified and educated by Washington County. Our team investigated 355 outbreaks of COVID-19 throughout 2020 and provided infection control and other support to prevent outbreaks from getting larger.

By using Coronavirus Relief Fund resources, we were able to do so much more. We made sure that people who were asked to quarantine because they were exposed to COVID-19 were supported while they stayed home to stop the spread of the disease. For some of these families, if they could not leave home to go to work, then they could not pay rent or utilities or get food for their children. About one-in-five people who were asked to quarantine told our team they needed help to be able to stay at home. Using the Coronavirus Relief Fund, our team was able to connect over 3,000 households with what they needed to ensure that staying home did not mean they risked losing their livelihoods, felt further isolated or felt stigmatized.

**16,286 Washington County cases** of COVID-19 through 12/31/20.

Over **12,000 people were notified** through contact tracing that they were exposed to COVID-19 and provided education.

Staff dedicated more than **6,000 hours of time** interviewing and educating cases.

A total of **355 outbreaks** of COVID-19 were **investigated**.

Approximately **20% of individuals** (one in five) who were asked to isolate or quarantine indicated they **needed additional support to stay home**.

Resource Coordinators followed-up with over **3,743 people** to assess **eligibility for resource support**.

Washington County funding **helped 3,096 households** with housing, utilities and/or food needs during isolation or quarantine.

Support included **at least one month of payments** for housing, utilities, and food needs.

Washington County contracted with **six culturally specific community based organizations** to provide support for households in isolation or quarantine.

Approximately **70%** of the households that received wraparound services identified as **Latinx**.

The Food Access Special Populations Mini Grants awarded nearly **\$106,000 to 28 organizations** across Washington County. Recipients fell into three main categories: school pantry programs, faith-based food assistance and community-based organizations.

**663 older adult** home bound clients were served a total of **54,195 meals**.

## Outreach to Organizations - Businesses and Individuals

Approximately **2,300 outreach calls** to check with facilities on contact information, COVID-19 exclusions, physical distancing and food safety.

Approximately **300 outreach calls** to non-licensed businesses in unincorporated Washington County to provide education.

3/25/20 to 6/18/20 the EOC liaison line received **266 phone calls**.

3/6/20 to 8/24/20 the EOC Liaison received over **250 questions via email**.

### Outreach Campaigns

The Board of Commissioners anticipated the public's need for clear guidance and widespread understanding of the protective measures that would stop the spread of this new virus, strengthening the county's ability to progress through the statewide reopening phases. This was especially important as recommendations and guidance changed as more was understood about COVID-19. The board determined that an additional investment of \$300,000 for paid media outreach was necessary to assist the community. Using a positive tone, the first round encouraged Washington County residents to follow basic public health guidance with the tag line "Let's keep going." Ads were run on multiple platforms and in 12 different languages. These ads garnered over three million impressions in June and July.

The second round of ads continued the same positive tone but responded to the changing circumstances of the pandemic. Working with regional partners, the overall reach of the campaign expanded to include the combined residents of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. Content in English and Spanish focused not only on the general adult population but also on people in their 20s due to disproportionately high case numbers among them. The overall campaign produced an estimated 17.4 million impressions regionwide over the weeks leading up to the Labor Day weekend and in early December 2020. A separate Facebook and Instagram campaign promoted content translated into 15 non-English languages, running from mid-September until the end of October 2020.

The county's use of CRF dollars to support this paid advertising campaign re-enforced key public health messages during some of the most dangerous months of the pandemic. By sharing these federal resources with partner counties, the effort also helped expand the campaign's reach and target a critical audience of young people.



## Respite Centers

Taking care of the community means taking care of everyone. Those who did not have a home but were diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 needed somewhere safe and secure to isolate. Washington County partnered with hotels to find spaces for these individuals to take care of themselves and their communities. We were able to assist 301 people by placing them in respite centers within these hotels. This program helped keep contacts to a minimum, reducing the likelihood that our most vulnerable community members would be stuck in a situation that spread the new coronavirus through our community.

## County Function

Protecting public health also meant keeping county employees safe and protected while they continued their day-to-day work for the county. COVID-19 does not care if you are an essential worker and that you work for the public agency that is fighting community spread of the virus. In response, Washington County invested in a variety of ways to reduce the risk of spread among county workers and the community they serve. This included changes to the physical infrastructure of the organization, streamlining purchasing processes, distributing personal protective equipment, modifying work schedules and work conditions, increasing the technological capacity to increase work from home and enabling more remote meetings. In pursuing these steps, the county organization also took actions to specifically address work areas of most vulnerability within county programs, like the jail, circuit court, community corrections center and the juvenile shelter.

As a key example, a collaborative effort supported by Coronavirus Relief Fund resources helped the circuit court resolve a backlog of over 1,200 criminal cases that had developed during the pandemic. This federal support enabled the county to lease a portion of the new Wingspan facility on the county fairgrounds, now called Westside Commons. For two-and-a-half months in the fall of 2020, this first official use of a portion of the new 52,000-square-foot facility allowed court proceedings to operate securely. The effort resulted directly from the cooperation among the Washington County Circuit Court, District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, Community Corrections Department, Public Health Division, Department of Support Services and the staff of Westside Commons. All of these investments focused on protecting our community and staff from the spread of the virus by creating safer county practices and facilities.



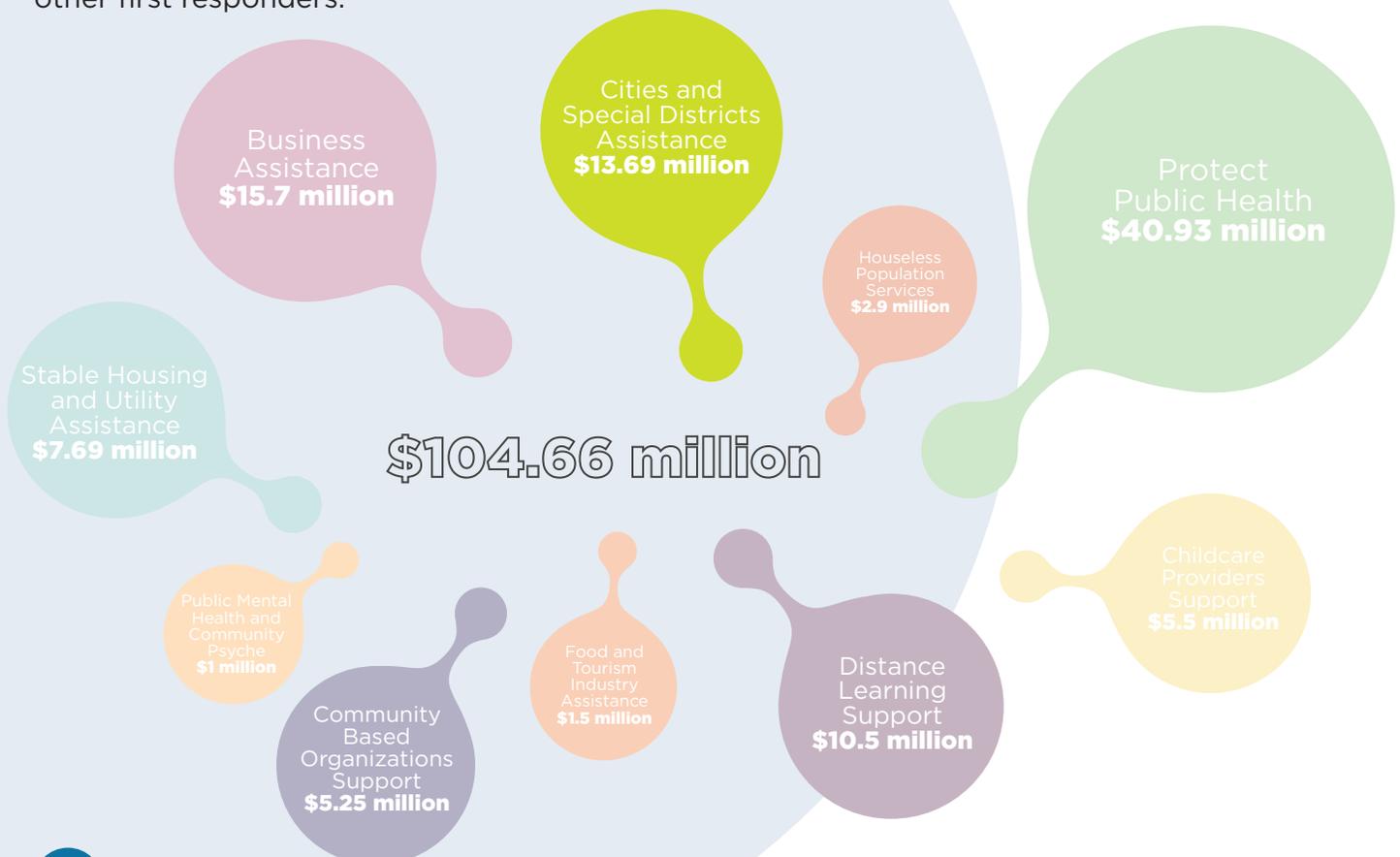
## CITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSISTANCE

Washington County was one of three local governments to directly receive federal Coronavirus Relief Funds in the state of Oregon. The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed that part of our funds would be used to aid and assist our city and special district partners with their efforts to protect public health. This meant that we set aside a pool of funds for those governments to use to keep their workforces safe, the public safety protected and respond to the public health needs within their jurisdictions.

Federal restrictions prohibited using these dollars to replace lost revenues, so what did the funds get used for?

Cities and special district needed to continue to provide public services, but, like so many others, had to modify how that work was accomplished.

Public safety personnel responded to increased calls and emergencies. This required an investment in personal protective equipment to keep first responders as safe as they could be. Increased medical call-outs meant emergency medical teams and fire departments had to respond to emergencies where they could be treating a patient with severe COVID-19 impacts. To keep them safe, they needed masks, gowns, face shields and gloves — items that were in short supply across the country. Law enforcement agencies were challenged to provide public safety services at a reduced level of inter-personal contact. This single aspect of the public health restrictions curtailed training dramatically, both in facilities and in the field. Again, federal funds supported the use of personal protective equipment for law enforcement and other first responders.



In addition, the work of water and sewer providers needed to continue. Without a functioning water and sewer system, people cannot wash their hands. Much of the work done by these public servants cannot be done remotely and puts people in contact with others and with materials that could contain the COVID-19 virus. To do their jobs safely, these workers needed to avoid sharing cars, to work in smaller teams and to avoid too many contacts between teams. Washington County's allocation helped them cover these costs.

Finally, the work to support our communities cannot stop, especially when the services provided by these entities are vital to the overall wellness of the community. These dollars helped find new ways of operating libraries, making it safe to continue development of housing, continuing road safety programs and providing vital access to recreational opportunities so that our community could continue to utilize these services with minimized risk to their health.

CITY	REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT
Banks	\$10,178
Beaverton	\$1,367,097
Cornelius	\$141,701
Forest Grove	\$271,227
Hillsboro	\$1,893,705
King City	\$114,114
North Plains	\$49,068
Sherwood	\$1,456,912
Tigard	\$587,222
Tualatin	\$579,922

SERVICE DISTRICT	REIMBURSEMENT AMOUNT
Banks Fire District #3	\$57,114
Clean Water Services	\$1,600,621
Gaston Rural Fire District	\$8,328
Tigard Tualatin Aquatic District	\$64,620
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District	\$3,720,815
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue	\$1,311,919
Tualatin Valley Irrigation District	\$7,448
Tualatin Valley Water District	\$175,000

**Note: The County fulfilled all requested reimbursements.**

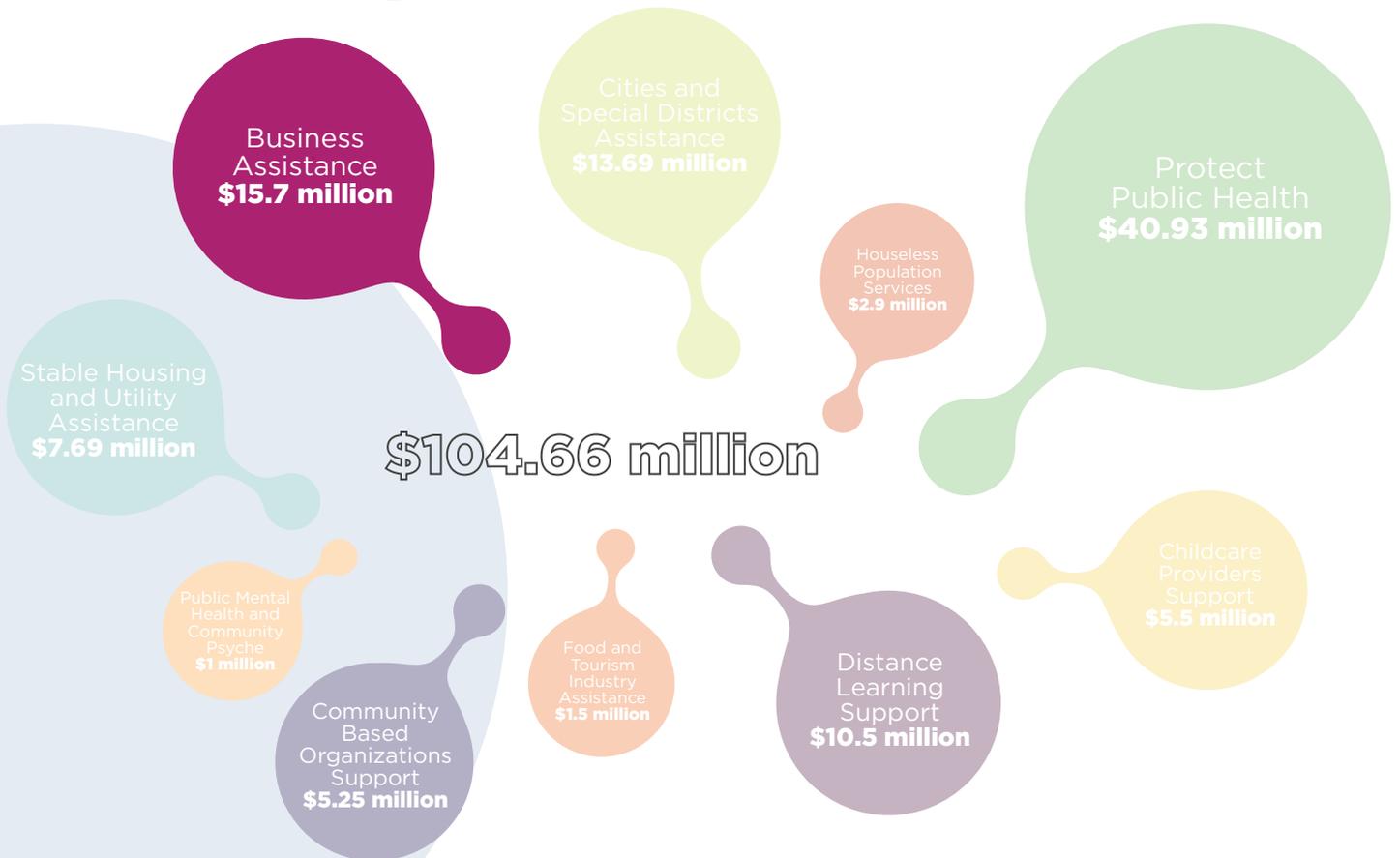


# STABILIZE THE LOCAL ECONOMY



## BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Outside of the impacts to the public health, the response to the COVID-19 crisis required many businesses to shut down, slow down or significantly alter the way they did business. The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized that there would be a need to find ways to lift up county businesses, particularly smaller businesses and businesses that lacked access to federal programs. As businesses were required to close, many workers found themselves with limited options. Therefore, the board invested \$15.7 million in Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars in business assistance programs.



## Grants

The largest portion of the funds went toward direct assistance to provide small businesses throughout the county with grants to help lift their revenues. To stretch assistance further, the county held a portion of the grant allocations for businesses in unincorporated areas and smaller cities and partnered with the cities to run programs within their jurisdiction. Through all these programs, there were efforts undertaken to ensure there was outreach through partners to smaller, BIPOC-owned businesses. Efforts were undertaken to prioritize those businesses that were most likely the primary income for families and least likely to have access to larger programs run by the federal and state governments. By working together, the dollars were stretched further and reached across the county. In addition, the county partnered with Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO), a community development financial institute that specializes in working with small businesses that have historically lacked access to traditional banking opportunities. While many of these grants were not large, the lift of hope they provided were meaningful to grant recipients.

### THE PROGRAM

Partners: MESO, Banks, Beaverton, Cornelius, North Plains, Hillsboro, Tigard, Tualatin and Sherwood

#### **Prioritized:**

- Small, local businesses located in Washington County

#### **Basic requirements:**

- Located in Washington County or within a city within Washington County
- Had revenue losses due to COVID-19 or were closed because of state orders
- Had 25 or fewer employees

#### **Results:**

County allocations:

- 1,102 grants provided to businesses in Washington County in four rounds of grants<sup>1</sup>, which included businesses within Durham, Forest Grove, Gaston, King City and the portion of Wilsonville located within Washington County.

City allocations<sup>2</sup>:

- Beaverton \$2,057,000
- Hillsboro \$1,780,000
- Tigard \$1,481,000
- Tualatin \$680,000
- Sherwood \$248,000
- Cornelius \$170,000
- North Plains \$85,000
- Banks \$75,000

<sup>1</sup> These numbers do not include the additional funding that came at the end of 2020 from the state to use for assisting businesses impacted by the statewide freeze at the end of November.

<sup>2</sup> Many cities mingled these funds with other funding sources to extend their programs further. To find out more about their results, please visit their websites.

A big THANK YOU to Washington County for awarding me the Business Recovery Grant. Your grant allowed me to pay my lease and utilities, which I passed on to the independent stylists. The money came at a time I was trying to find funding and only running into dead ends. It gave me the hope I needed and reassured me that we will get through this.

– Kathy Kolodziejczak, Salon 26

## Business Recovery Centers

To assist businesses working to respond to the changing requirements and various business support programs, the county worked with partners to create four business recovery centers. The business recovery centers focused on outreach, technical assistance and education for all businesses within Washington County. They also became a place for the distribution of personal protective equipment provided by the county to businesses. Providing these services helped businesses throughout the county as they worked to adjust and adapt to ongoing regulatory changes. The business recovery centers provided one-on-one assistance, providing a life line and lifting our community's businesses up. Because staff members to these business recovery centers were visiting businesses, they were able to create lines of communications to businesses that would not otherwise be aware of opportunities for assistance or connection to county resources. Finally, the centers coordinated the "Every Plate Project" which connected restaurants and caterers with community based organizations to make and deliver meals to community members and programs.

### THE PROGRAM

Partners: Adelante Mujeres, Beaverton Chamber of Commerce, Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and Tualatin Chamber of Commerce

#### Prioritized:

- Small and medium-sized businesses within Washington County

#### Basic requirements:

- Be a business in Washington County

#### Results:

- 2,127.5 estimated hours of consultation to businesses
- 417,762 pieces of personal protective equipment distributed
- 4,506 businesses received outreach or direct assistance



Mi nombre es Araceli de la Cruz mi negocio es La Popular LLC venta de comida fresca y autentica Mexicana de Estado de Jalisco. Quiero agradecer al Centro de Recuperacion de Negocios de Forest Grove por el apoyo brindado a traves de Ivette Heredia por el asesoramiento profesional recibido en estos tiempos dificiles Pude encontrar el apoyo para construir una pagina de Internet para poder ofrecer mis productos de comida, toma de fotografias de los productos que ofrezco y el apoyo con mascarillas y equipo esencial para mantener operando el negocio seguro. Muchas Gracias.

- Araceli, La Popular

## Examples of BRC Impacts

### Adelante Mujeres

#### Every Plate Project

Paired small catering or restaurant businesses with nonprofits to provide catered meals to meal service programs, such as shelters, day centers, homebound/senior service. Connecting nine small businesses to nine nonprofits, they provided 1,946 meals to community members facing food insecurity.



### Beaverton BRC

#### Programming & education

Created educational and informational sessions for businesses to attend free of charge that focused on providing businesses with tools and resources on how to adapt businesses to public health compliance, improve business administration to better qualify for assistance and other timely topics. Over 50 hours of programming was provided in English and Spanish.

### Hillsboro BRC

#### Communications

Serving the largest area and the most diverse business communities, they went door-to-door to build trust and determine what small businesses needed. Focusing on language and outreach barriers, materials were provided in multiple formats from the website they maintained to postings on community boards to mailers. Business owners were provided information in the language they requested to ensure knowledge of the state business guidance.



### Tualatin BRC

#### Economic impact

Using one-on-one sessions, one business counselor guided businesses through local, state and federal assistance programs. This counseling brought in \$160,200 to businesses in the area — \$100,500 in city, county, state and federal grants and \$59,700 Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

## Workforce

As businesses have had to reimagine how they do business, many workers have lost their jobs. In order to help address the potential long-term changes in the economy, Washington County partnered with experienced workforce development programs to help individuals start re-training. These programs focused on providing opportunities for individuals to start pathways to long-term career education, paths focused on jobs that were not as impacted by the pandemic, primarily in health care and manufacturing. These programs also provided additional support for workers while they gained new skills and sought new jobs.

### THE PROGRAM

**Partners:**  
Worksystems, Inc.;  
Portland Community  
College and  
Centro Cultural

#### **Prioritized:**

- Workers who have had employment in industries that faced significant layoffs due to COVID-19
- Workers desiring training for new career paths
- Youth needing educational opportunities
- Historically underserved communities
- Low-income workers

#### **Basic requirements:**

- Reside in Washington County
- Referral or application to the program
- Programmatic requirements

#### **Results:**

- 768 Washington County community members served
- 138 youth provided GED preparation and advancement and training, safety net and employment services
- 22 Families provided rent assistance while re-training or job seeking
- 137 laptops purchased for use by job seekers and career coaches
- \$84,000 in financial assistance to cover basic needs and new job-related expenses (e.g., transportation, work clothes, child care)



# COURSE ENROLLMENT

18 students in IT support training

19 students in a COVID compliant Commercial Drivers License training,  
8 more placed in programs outside Washington County due to capacity concerns

9 participants in the On Ramp to Manufacturing course

22 participants in the On Ramp to Healthcare course

25 participants in the Healthcare Essentials course

61 participants for Contract Tracing course

8 participants in subsidized work experience

51 individuals received one-on-one career coaching

## WASHINGTON COUNTY PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR CARES PROGRAM SERVICES

### TOTAL RESIDENTS SERVED 362

GENDER	NUMBER SERVED	PERCENT SERVED
Male	130	36%
Female	229	63%
Non-Binary	1	NA
Not Disclosed	2	NA
RACE	NUMBER SERVED	PERCENT SERVED
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3	.8%
Asian	9	2%
Black or African American	28	8%
More than one race	16	4%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	8	2%
Not Disclosed	111	31%
White	187	52%
ETHNICITY	NUMBER SERVED	PERCENT SERVED
Hispanic or Latino	175	48%
Not Hispanic or Latino	172	47%
Not Disclosed	15	5%

PCC Demographics

# BREAKDOWN OF JOB SEEKERS REACHED

These numbers capture the results of our intake form. This form was completed by the jobseekers themselves. Full results are available upon request.

46% identified as non-white

77% identified as female

56% said that their parents did not graduate from college (or they weren't sure)

35% said they were currently receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits

7% said they were currently receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits

57% said they did not yet have a degree

4% reported barriers due to legal convictions

4% reported veterans status

Percentages rounded to the nearest decimal

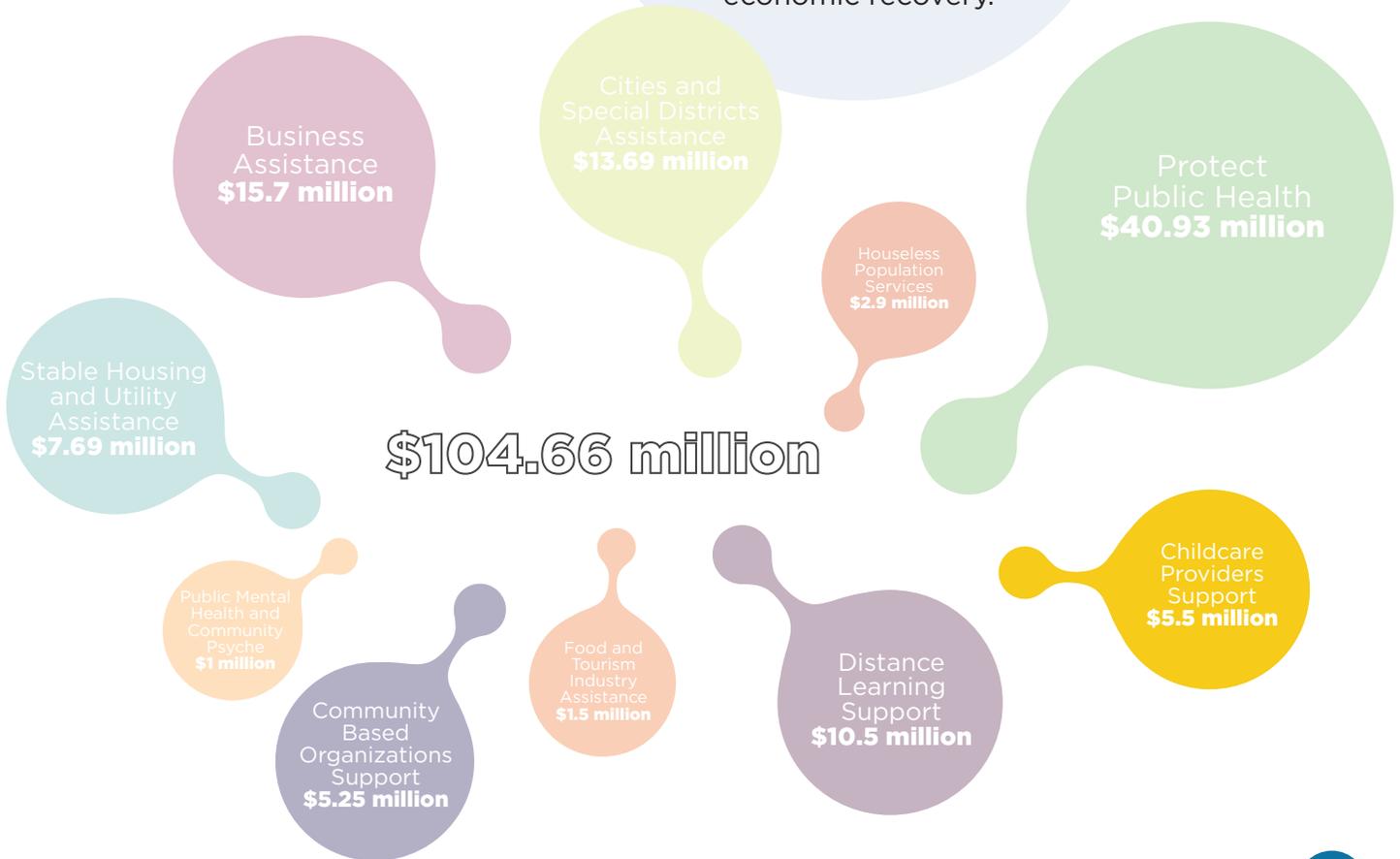


## CHILD CARE PROVIDER ASSISTANCE

Washington County, like all of Oregon, has a shortage of child care providers to meet the needs of the community. The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized that many smaller child care providers might struggle to comply with new operational requirements and would face revenue losses due to families following state guidance to limit contacts outside of households. The Washington County Board of Commissioners determined that child care was a vital resource that consists of essential workers, and if child care providers were to close down, the losses would exacerbate the current shortage and hamper the future economic recovery.



By investing in smaller child care facilities, this use of Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars has kept these vital providers working. A survey after the grants had been provided showed that 99% of the respondents were still operating at their prior capacity and 60% were able to increase their capacity. Maintaining this vital workforce assistance is important as the community works toward economic recovery.





**Prioritized:**

- Child care providers with small operating capacities and budgets
- Providing care for underserved families
- Keeping child care facilities open

**Basic requirements:**

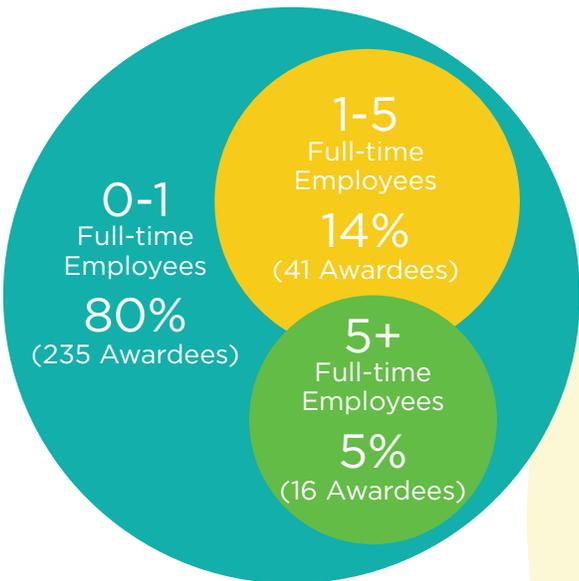
- Located in Washington County
- An active child care provider license
- No more than 15 employees
- Annual revenue under \$500,000 in 2019

**Results:**

- 318 grants to 292 grantees
- \$3.18 million in awarded funds

**Washington County child care grant recipients self-reported race compared to state-wide child care providers.**

RACE/ETHNICITY	CHILD CARE GRANT AWARDEES	STATE AVERAGE
American Indian	<1% (N=1)	1%
Asian	8% (N=24)	4%
Black	1% (N=4)	3%
Middle Eastern/North African	1% (N=3)	State Source Includes in White
Hispanic/Latinx/Spanish	37% (N=107)	19%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<1% (N=2)	1%
White	42% (N=122)	70%
Multi Racial	4% (N=11)	1%
Declined to Answer	7% (N=20)	NA



“If there wasn’t the grant program, I would have closed and probably taken a job doing Amazon deliveries or Doordash opposite my spouse’s schedule, increasing our own risk of COVID and causing a lot of stress hoping it all worked out. By being able to continue working in child care despite the significantly lowered number of clients in the spring, I was able to care for my own children, others, and maintain a safe place for all to be during these uncertain times.

- Anonymous Grant Recipient

## DISTANCE LEARNING SUPPORT

State guidance required that school districts close in-person schooling starting in the 2019-2020 school year. This left many families trying to balance working outside the home while having to care for school-aged children. To help school districts continue to provide education services to these children and lift up the families that could otherwise fall through the cracks, the county invested Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars in distance learning programs to help families successfully navigate learning from home. Our partner school districts determined how to best meet the education needs of their populations throughout 2020.



# THE PROGRAM

Partner: School Districts of: Banks, Beaverton, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Tigard-Tualatin and Sherwood

## Prioritized:

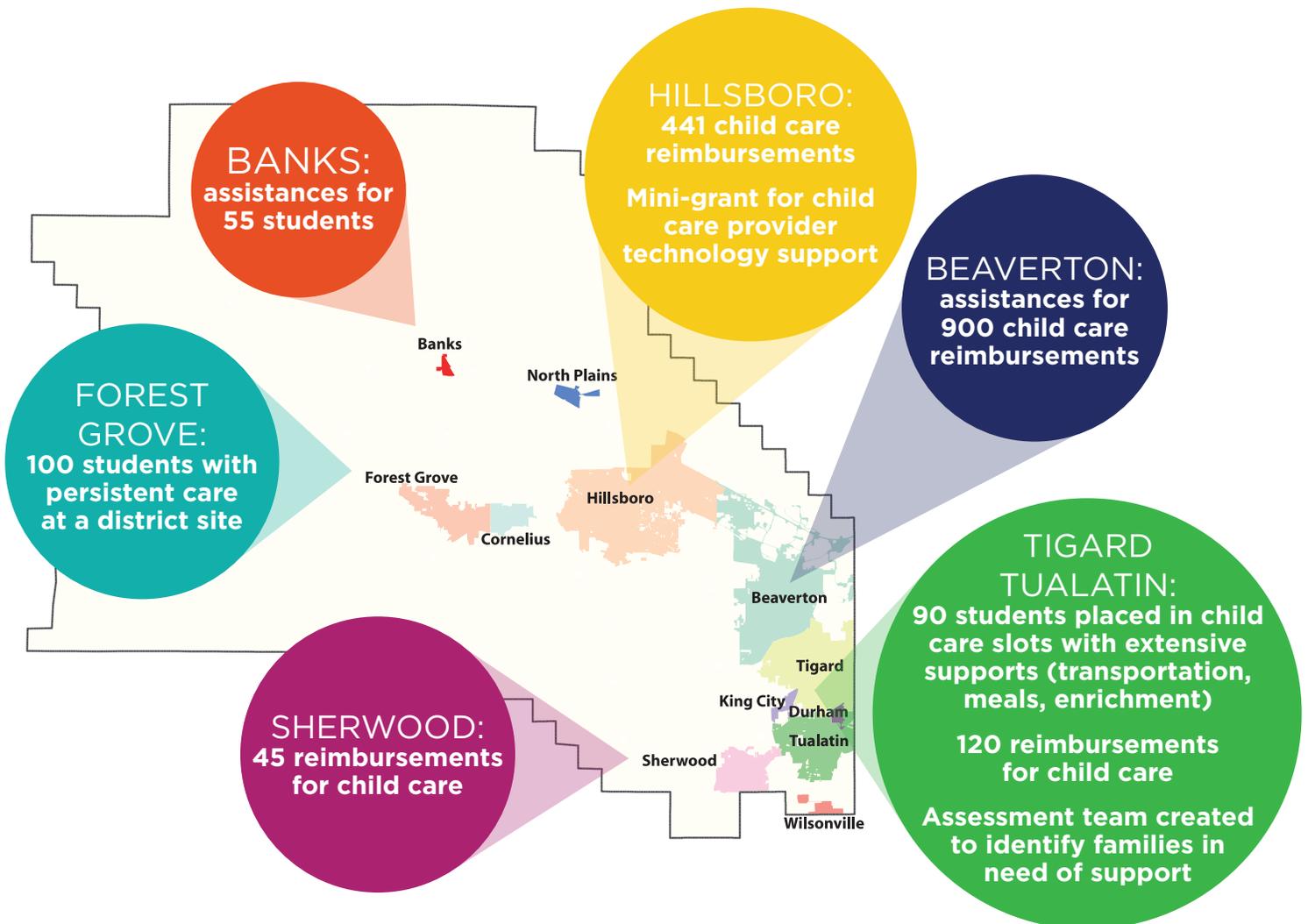
- Children of essential workers
- Children of families earning below 300% of federal poverty guidelines
- Children of vulnerable communities or otherwise defines as requiring in-person support

## Basic requirements:

- Requirements were established by the individual school districts

## Results:

- 1,615 reimbursements provided for child care costs across the county
- 100 students provided persistent care at a district site
- Technology support for child care providers
- \$2.7 million to support comprehensive distance learning
- \$1.1 million for food assistance
- \$300,000 for sanitation & custodial work



## FOOD AND TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE

One industry that was specifically targeted for relief with Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars was food and tourism. Economic reporting across the state showed that these businesses have suffered some of the greatest revenue losses, while licensing requirements and other fixed costs remained. With this loss of revenues, any ongoing cost may have been enough to overwhelm the slim margins of these businesses. The county dedicated funds to keep them going, using the opportunity of license renewal communication to offer a grant program to these businesses.



**THE PROGRAM**  
Partner: none

**Prioritized:**

- Food & Tourism businesses licensed by the county

**Basic requirements:**

- Simple application attesting to meeting requirements

**Results:**

- 628 business representing 740 facilities
- \$705,900 total grants

**\$1,124** Average Grant per Business

**\$955** Average Grant per Facility

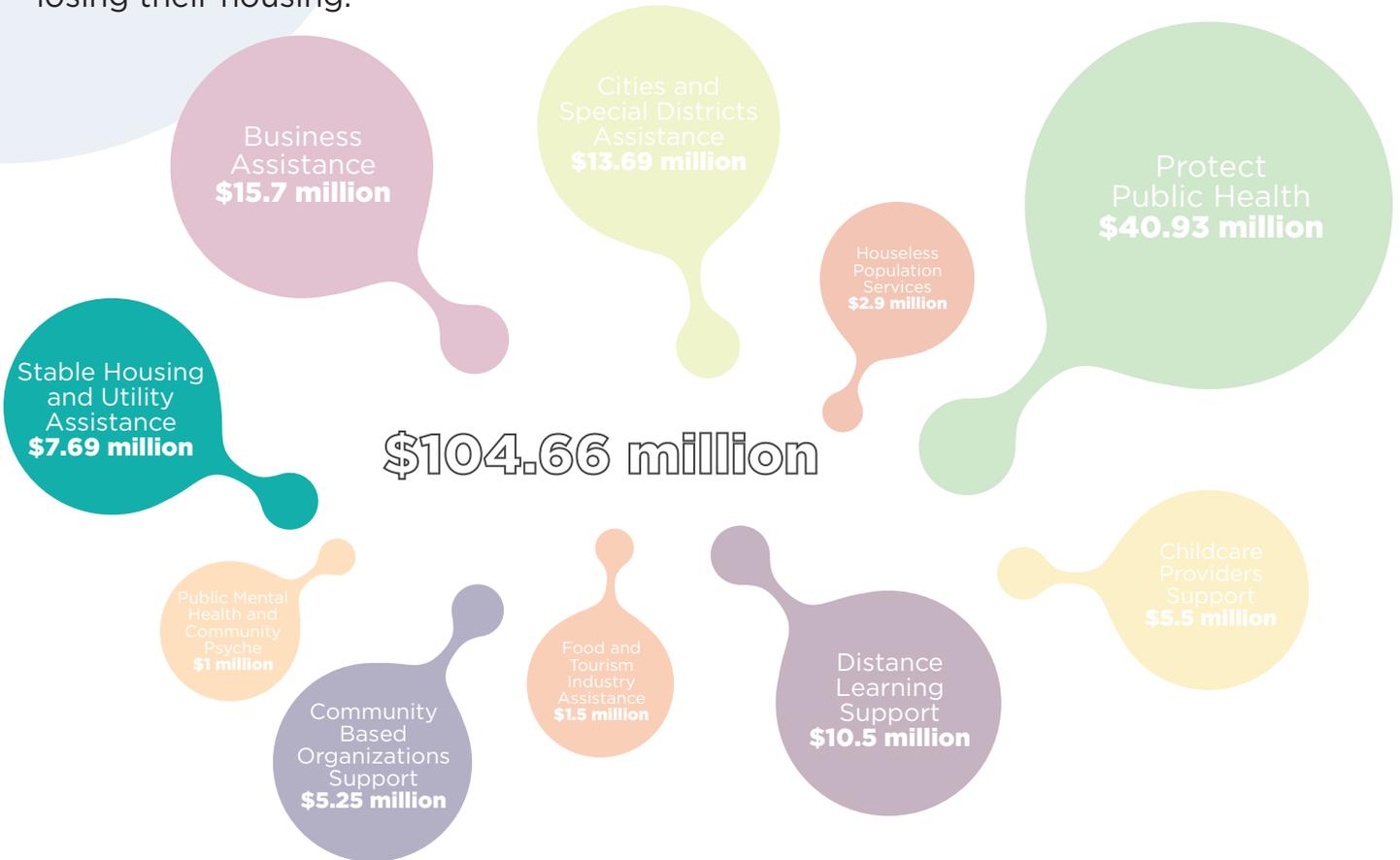
RESTAURANT TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS	TOTAL LICENSE HOLDER
Small & Mobile	174	518
Medium Restaurants	484	1,021
Large Restaurants	55	117

TOURIST FACILITY TYPE	NUMBER OF GRANTS	TOTAL LICENSE HOLDERS
Hotels 50 or fewer rooms	5	12
Hotels 51-100 rooms	7	19
Hotels greater than 100 rooms	6	29
Campgrounds & Tourist RV Parks	2	8



## STABLE HOUSING ASSISTANCE

The best practices for reducing the spread of COVID-19 called for individuals to stay home, but many ran the risk of eviction as their income was lowered due to business closures or slowed operations. This meant that employees stopped receiving pay checks, and the lowest-wage earners were left with rent to pay but less or no income to pay it with. High eviction rates would have devastated our community and our public health response. To avoid large waves of evictions or foreclosures, money was set aside to directly pay the rent or mortgage for households most likely to face losing their housing.



**THE PROGRAM**  
**Partner: Community Action, Proud Ground, Willamette West Habitat for Humanity**

**Prioritized:**

- Low-income households (80% and lower) that were COVID impacted

**Basic requirements:**

- Documentation of income eligibility and COVID impact

**Results:**

- \$5.6 million allocated

**RENT** 4,063 individuals  
1,321 households

**MORTGAGE** 150 individuals  
32 households

## UTILITY ASSISTANCE

As businesses closed or reduced operations, employees were left with less income to cover bills including utility payments. While many rental assistance opportunities were created, the need to keep utility services also required funds to pay the utility costs for sanitary services — water, sewer and stormwater. Keeping the water running for vulnerable households allowed families to stay safely at home and practice necessary hygiene to slow the spread of COVID-19. These direct payments on the behalf of households took one more burden off these families dealing with the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19.



**Prioritized:**

- Low-income households (80% Area Median Income and lower)

**Basic requirements:**

- Documentation of income eligibility
- Documentation of COVID impact

**Results:**

- \$600,000 allocated

**WATER** 3,251 individuals  
1,265 households

**WASTE** 902 individuals  
371 households

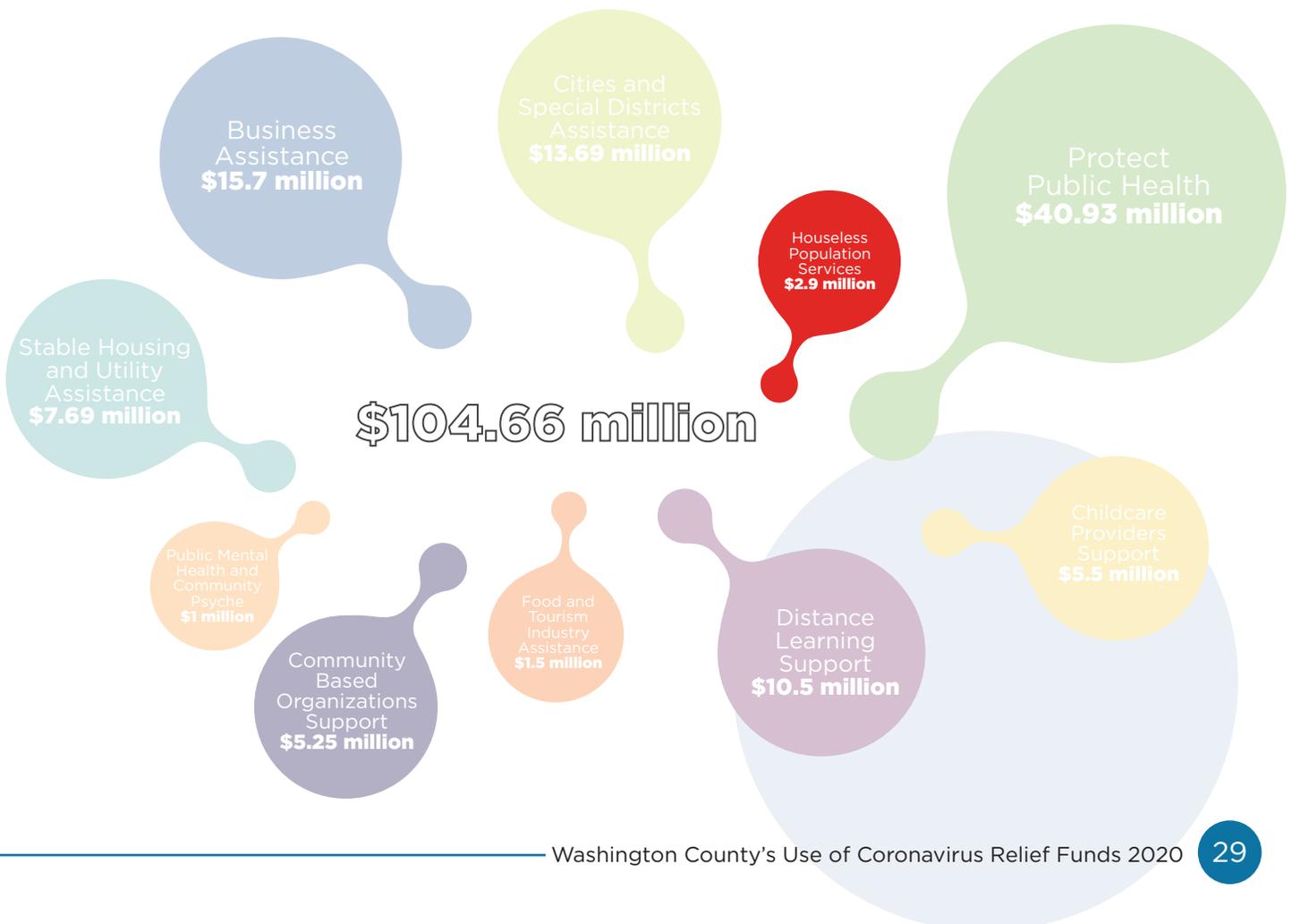


## HOUSELESS POPULATION PROGRAMS

Coronavirus Relief Fund resources supported a managed, outdoor camping location for over 50 houseless adults in an effort to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the houseless community. This “Safe Sleep Village” was located at Westside Commons, which is the re-branded name of the property previously referred to as the Washington County Fair Complex in Hillsboro. A “Safe Sleep RV Park” was also opened nearby providing a temporary, managed location for 35 vehicles to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the houseless community. These shelter services enabled many in Washington County’s houseless population, who often have pre-existing health conditions and may lack access to traditional health care resources, to prevent the spread of the disease.

While at these shelters, community members were assisted in understanding COVID-19 through education programs and accessing health care for COVID-symptomatic residents. In addition, shelters provided WiFi access to children, helping keep them connected to school as education remained online in the fall.

Staff also worked to assist those at these sites move from houselessness into safe, affordable permanent housing. Combining all of the programs, the average length of stay was 17 days. From all of the sites, 5% were moved into housing. Most of those transitions came from the Family Promise Shelters. The ability to provide all these services and successes was due to the use of Coronavirus Relief Funds.



# THE PROGRAM

Partner: Project Homeless Connect Washington County, Family Promise of Tualatin Valley

## Prioritized:

- Houseless individuals and families
- Imminently houseless individuals and families

## Basic requirements:

- Meet eligibility criteria
- Follow the rules of the Village/hotel program

## Results:

- 637 individuals service across all programs

PROGRAM	# OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED	% CHRONIC HOUSELESS	% PERSONS OF COLOR
Family Promise Shelters	140	15%	32%
Safe Sleep Village	106	34%	19%
Safe RV Parking	57	9%	16%
Winter Shelters	250	42%	78%
Hotel Vouchers	84	42%	14%



“ We created a safe sleep village within two weeks of approval that provided 50 tent settings for individuals that were transitioning from crowded encampments lacking sanitation to this tent-based shelter with wrap-around services.

- Annette Evans,  
Homeless Programs Manager

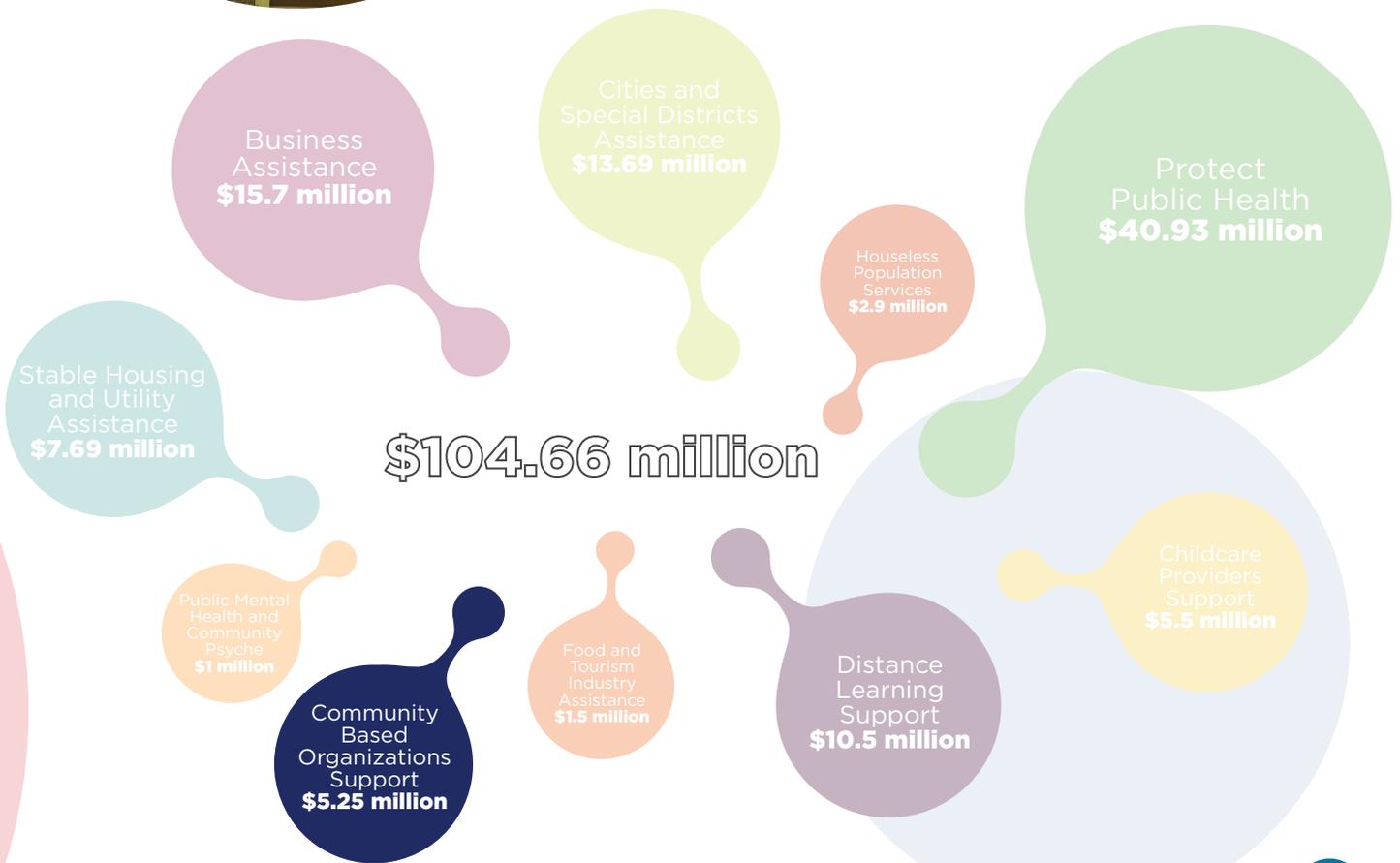
# COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS & NONPROFITS

## NONPROFIT GRANT PROGRAM

Services that assist children, support the arts, serve our most vulnerable and speak to the many cultures within our population are often provided by local nonprofits and community-based organizations.

In addition, these providers have proven critical in the county's work to connect with those in our community who have been historically marginalized and have come to not trust government messages by virtue of their lived experiences.

In times of economic crisis, nonprofits and community-based organizations find themselves with fewer donations and lost fundraising options. Many local nonprofits depend on large fundraising events or charges for services delivered in-person to make their budgets whole. Pandemic-related restrictions on gatherings and the economic



impacts of the COVID-19 response left these organizations wondering how they would be able to move forward, and whether they could continue providing their cultural, educational and other services that many depend on.

Because losing these vital partners would put Washington County's COVID-19 response at risk and limit its ability to protect those disproportionately affected by the pandemic, the Board of Commissioners put \$5.25 million towards supporting their operations.



## THE PROGRAM

Partner: Oregon Community Foundation

### **Prioritized:**

**Primarily:** organizations that work with or for communities hardest hit as either a culturally specific or culturally responsive organizations

**Secondarily:** organizations that served other communities that are vulnerable (low income, seniors, health impacted)

### **Basic requirements:**

- Served Washington County Community
- Revenue loss was COVID-19 related
- Not covered by other programs or grants

### **Results:**

- Requested funds: \$6,849,119
- Award total: \$5,057,814
- 85 different nonprofits served
- 18 are either culturally specific or culturally responsive organizations

“

It was clear to me during the review process that the strain felt by nonprofit leadership was enormous, strain related to serving their clients as well as doing right by their staff. The CARES Program funding gave them financial resources and even hope at a critical moment. They felt validated and supported. I was glad to be part of such an important program.

- Megan Schumaker,  
Oregon Community Foundation  
Grant Evaluator

## AWARD BY OCF PRIORITY CATEGORY

This chart shows the percent of grants to each category of non-profit. It also shows examples of the types of nonprofits that received grants within those categories. More non-profits received grants than are listed below.

**Education:** Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia NW (Washington County) supports 216 children a year in Washington County through one-on-one mentorship, 80% are from low-income homes and 67% identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color. Our grant allowed the program to cover personnel costs, facility lease and adapt its model to keep kids and mentors connected.

### Economic Vitality:

Adelante Mujeres (Forest Grove) provides education and empowerment opportunities for Latinas and their families through education, leadership and microenterprise programs. Their grant allowed them to cover lost revenues and support their staffing, technology, training and client-assistance needs.

### Arts & Culture:

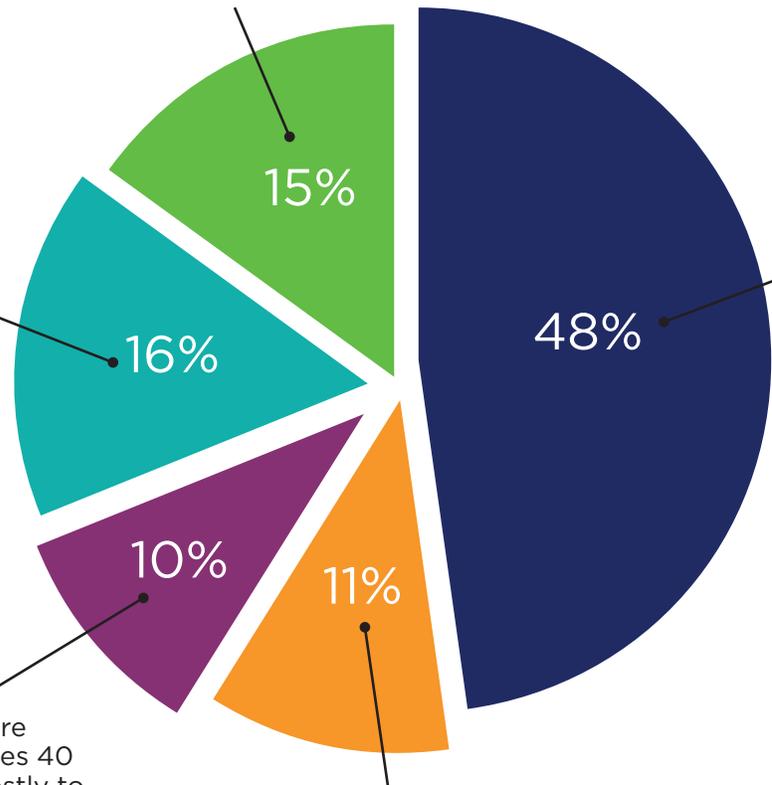
Mask & Mirror Community Theatre (Tigard) normally provides 40 performances a year, mostly to retired seniors through an all-volunteer organizations. The grant allowed them to sustain operations by preserving sets and costumes and maintaining their insurance and website.

### Livability:

Aloha Community Library Association (Aloha) is an independent nonprofit that relies on fundraising for 20% of its annual budget to provide for library services in this unincorporated community of Washington County. This grant helped sustain library services, which were significantly modified in response to COVID-19 guidance.

### Health & Wellbeing:

Westside Food Brigade (Beaverton) provides emergency foods to over 180 families, representing around 800 people each week in Aloha, Beaverton and Hillsboro. The grant allowed them to purchase a refrigerated food truck to replace the fresh food program that was canceled at the beginning of the pandemic and to allow the organization to transport and preserve perishable foods donated by local grocery stores.

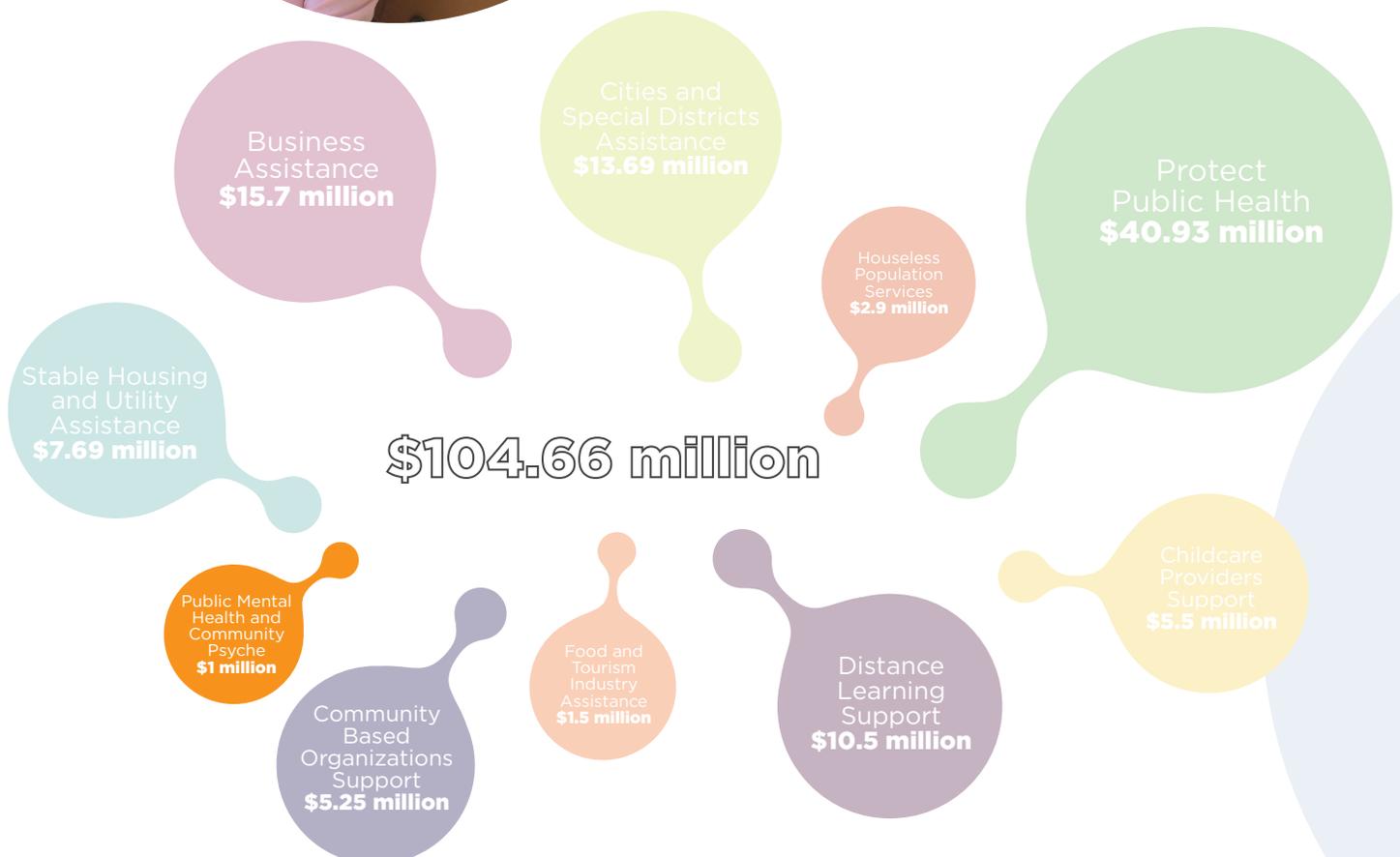


# BUILD PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY PSYCHE



## PARKS DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

One significant impact of the physical distance guidance for reducing the spread of COVID-19 is the difficulty in keeping our community feeling united and the toll that the pandemic takes on individual mental health. To mitigate these impacts, Washington County partnered with parks and recreation departments across the county to develop ongoing programs that could bring the community together in new ways while remaining in compliance with public health requirements.



The county's original partners were Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District (THPRD), Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Department and Tigard Parks. There was an additional agreement reached with the Sherwood Parks and Recreation Department later in the year. While the county provided all funds to these programs already, each of these departments is extending their work and programming into 2021, particularly the programs that Sherwood is providing.

It was important that these programs supporting a healthy community psyche also reflect the diverse communities within the greater Washington County community.

## THE PROGRAM

Partners: Hillsboro Parks Department, Tigard Parks Department, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Sherwood Parks Department

### Prioritized:

- Events that could connect the community with itself and touch on shared community experiences or continuing normal community events in a COVID-19-safe manner.

### Results:

Hillsboro - 4 events

- Estimated 72,000 individuals served

Tigard/Durham - 19 events

- Estimated 23,318 individuals served

THPRD & City of Beaverton - 19 events

- Estimated 48,515 individuals served

Sherwood - to be determined

- Working on a spring roll out for this program.



## EXAMPLE PROGRAMS FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY DIVERSITY

Adaptive Mobile Recreation	Free adaptive recreation programming for people experiencing disabilities in partnership with community-based organizations.
Cultural Celebrations: Message Gardens Nature Talk in Spanish Talking Walls	Free celebrations of diverse art, dance and culture provided at select locations around the district.
Welcoming Walks	A free organized walk happening as part of the National Welcoming Week to highlight the important contributions of immigrants and refugees and to reaffirm our place as a welcoming and inclusive community.
Culturally Specific Organizations and Community-based Organizations	Support culturally specific and community-based organizations that need help funding events, gatherings and activities.
Welcoming Week	Welcoming Week grants for community-based organizations to host events recognizing the significant contributions of immigrant and refugee community members.
Cultural History of Beaverton Project	Collect stories from Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) leaders, nontraditional narratives and missing pieces of local history.
Community Conversations on Race	National trainers/speakers/facilitators to train and facilitate dialogue for community members.
El Grito	Online Celebration of Mexico's Independence Day
Operation HOPE	Tigard partnered with local community members to coordinate Operation HOPE (Health, Outreach, Partnership, Encouragement) to help those experiencing homelessness and isolation by partnering with nonprofits to donate small care packages. Packages included hand sanitizer, socks, a wool hat, small treat and a personalized item.



# CONCLUSION



This report has attempted to describe the sweeping effort the Washington County organization put into motion when using \$104.66 million of federal Coronavirus Relief Fund dollars. With leadership from the Board of County Commissioners, these CRF dollars aided a community unevenly impacted by the disease — especially with respect to race and ethnicity — in terms of our public, mental and economic health. By establishing priorities and principles to guide the expenditure of CRF funds, the board emphasized providing “the most positive impact for the most amount of people” as well as adhering to all of CRF’s federal financial requirements. To implement the board’s vision and the direction provided in the board’s Equity Resolution of February 2020, the county worked with partners like cities, special districts, community-based organizations and other key groups to spread the assistance to those disparately impacted by the effects of COVID-19 and associated response.

The results can be found not only in the numbers shown on the pages of this report, but also in the outcomes experienced by those who received our support. These personal stories speak to a long list of aid granted, including direct rental assistance, food delivery, payment of utility and other bills, purchase of personal protective equipment, upgrades to work and learning spaces, safe continuation of the arts and cultural activities and so on. Although COVID-19 was and remains a severe challenge to the people of Washington County, our hope is that the use of these federal dollars described here reflects the best of our combined work to help a community in need.

Taken together, this multi-faceted, multi-organizational effort focused us on the unifying goal to “lift us up and keep us going.”