



James L. Brown
County Executive Officer

2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-7636
(209) 385-7673 Fax
www.countyofmerced.com

Equal Opportunity Employer

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CONTACT: Mike North 209-726-2744

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES CARES ACT FUNDING PLAN

MERCED—At today's meeting, the Merced County Board of Supervisors approved a funding plan for approximately \$28.9 million of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to support businesses, vulnerable members of the community, and the fight against COVID-19.

The plan, which passed on a 4 to 1 vote, aims to help address the impacts of the pandemic. The action allows the initial usage of the funding allocation, and directs the County Executive Officer to return to the Board to provide a final CARES Act Expenditure Report. Funding is contingent upon local adherence to Federal and State guidance and health requirements.

The Board's action paves the way for funding to be spent in the following areas:

- **Continuity of Operations and Emergency Response:** \$18,681,000 (65 percent)
 - Ensures continuity of County operations and emergency response, including modification of Countywide facilities, in response to COVID-19.
- **Community Support/Small Business Relief:** \$7,227,000 (25 percent)
 - Provides assistance or economic relief to vulnerable members of the community and enhances support for healthcare, local organizations, and industries that have been impacted by COVID-19.
 - \$3 million will support local small businesses through the COVID-19 Business Assistance Program, which will be administered by the Merced County Workforce Development Board. The Program will provide small businesses within Merced County up to \$50,000 in grant funding for the reimbursement of eligible COVID-19-related operating expenses and to cover expenses related to implementing COVID-19 health and safety measures.
- **Reserve Contingency:** \$3 million (10 percent)
 - Provides for unforeseen expenditures or impacts caused by COVID-19.

The CARES Act was signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020 and authorized more than \$2 trillion to combat COVID-19 and its economic effects. Through the CARES Act, California received \$9.5 billion, of which Merced County is allocated approximately \$28.9 million. The funding will be allocated out in monthly installments, the first of which was received July 31.

For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit www.countyofmerced.com/coronavirus.