

FISCAL NOTE
COVID-19 Supplemental

Ordinance/Motion:	3rd COVID-19 Supplemental		
Title:	Grant Program to Support King County Farmers and Farm Businesses		
Agency:	Water and Land Resources Division (EN_A84500)		
Summary: Provide funding for King County’s farm and food sectors to provide farmers, farm owners, and farmers markets with funding to cover COVID-19 costs. Actions required to mitigate public health and safety risks include developing and implementing safety operating plans for Farmer’s Market Organizations, purchasing personal protective equipment for farmers and farm workers, extra costs related to sanitation and compliance with social distancing, reducing barriers with technology assistance to facilitate transitioning to e-commerce platforms, connecting farmers and foodbanks, and partnering with senior centers. Funding is also included for administrative support within WLRD.			
	2019-2020	2021-2022	2023-2024
FEDERAL GRANTS INDIRECT (R3330)	1,380,000		
Total Revenue	1,380,000	-	-
WAGES AND BENEFITS (51000)	45,000		
CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER (54000)	1,335,000		
Total Expenditure	1,380,000	-	-
Net Impact	-	-	-
Total TLT	-	-	-
<p>Farming is considered an essential business by federal and state mandate and is allowed to operate if proper measures are in place to keep workers and customers safe. The farm/food community needs funding and support to meet new compliance requirements and procure PPE and sanitizing products, find new markets for their food, and utilize technology. Actions identified that will facilitate the transition include (but are not limited to):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Grants to Farmers markets for compliance with new Public Health – Seattle & King County permitting requirements to develop and implement COVID-19 operating plans and prepare weekly compliance reports. Based on preliminary outreach, grants awards of \$10,000 would allow the farmer’s markets to make progress on these plans. 2) Grants to local farm businesses to cover the added cost of procuring the necessary health and safety PPE for farmers and farm workers, and implementing new standards and practices in one-time payments of \$1,000. 3) Grants to local farm businesses and organizations to support transitioning to ecommerce platforms, and the professional support needed for an online sales plan and to build a technology platform and select online financial payment systems. Grants between \$2,500-\$5,000 would make support this transition, and would likely be administered in coordination with an external partner. 4) Support for farm to foodbank/food pantry efforts could provide much needed revenue for local farmers while increasing the amount, variety, quality, and consistency of local produce made available to food-insecure King County residents. Farmers lost market share and sales due to restaurant closures and Farmer’s Markets not operating at full capacity and need new sales channels. Food banks are experiencing unprecedented growth in clients at a time when there is limited supply of fresh products and a decline in food donations. Grants will be awarded to foodbanks/food pantries to purchase farm produce will provide revenue to farmers and provide food banks/pantries with fresh produce for food insecure residents. 5) Help meet the increased need for nutritious food by providing grant dollars to community organizations, and helping connect them with farmers in order to bring farm-fresh food to senior centers. 6) A half-time grant manager (or something similar) is needed to support these programs. Wages and benefits have been included as a placeholder. 			

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Date Prepared: 6/5/2020
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Date Reviewed: 6/8/20