



King County

Dow Constantine

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October 15, 2020

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed emergency supplemental appropriation ordinance that, if enacted, would authorize King County to continue to fund critical COVID-19 response efforts. This is the fifth COVID-19 supplemental appropriation request I have transmitted to the King County Council in 2020. The proposal includes \$41.6 million in revenue backed expenditures and technical corrections.

On Sunday, March 1, a Proclamation of Emergency in response to COVID-19 enabled extraordinary measures to fight the outbreak, including waiving some procurement protocols and authorizing overtime for King County employees. On March 10, May 12, June 23, and September 1, the King County Council approved the first, second, third, and fourth COVID-19 supplemental requests, respectively. These supplemental budgets funded economic recovery efforts, community health and safety measures, and County response and operations.

As the County continues to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, this proposed fifth appropriation is guided by the values of supporting funds where the needs are greatest, maximizing the use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and other federal revenue sources, reducing administrative burden and risk, and continuing to implement previously approved programs across King County. The proposed fifth COVID-19 supplemental appropriations request invests in three key areas:

- **Continues community resilience and recovery** efforts through funding for Public Health outreach, surge capacity for COVID-19 response during flu season, testing site operations, vaccination logistics planning, DCHS health ambassadors, and bulk personal protective equipment (PPE) purchases.
- **Supports King County's continuity of operations**, including funding for plexiglass in all District Court locations and technology system updates to support Superior Court operations.

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- **Funds staff redeployed** to COVID-19 duties over the past year. Salary costs for employees substantially redeployed to the public health response may be covered by CRF.

Prior appropriations of CRF totaled \$194 million. This proposal would fund an additional \$20 million in costs backed by CRF, plus an additional \$17.5 million costs backed by funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In addition, this proposal includes \$4.1 million in technical adjustments to correct errors in the last COVID supplemental, such as funding for Council-directed grants in DCHS.

Please note that these appropriation requests rely on initial estimates of costs, which may be revised, and that the County is actively seeking state and federal reimbursement for all COVID-19 related expenses.

This work furthers the King County Strategic Plan goal to improve the health and well-being of people in our community.

I certify that funds are available.

As this year draws to a close, our continued collaboration allows us to support King County's families, communities, and our employees as we navigate the challenges of the pandemic together.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. If your staff have questions, please contact Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9687.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
 Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget