



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Motion 15816

Proposed No. 2021-0092.1

Sponsors Kohl-Welles, Dembowski and
Balducci

1 A MOTION setting the county's priorities for allocation of
2 federal and state COVID-19 relief moneys available in
3 2021.

4 WHEREAS, as of February 7, 2021, there have been 78,686 positive cases of
5 coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") and 1,299 deaths due to COVID-19 illness in
6 King County, and

7 WHEREAS, the significant progression of COVID-19 in Washington state
8 prompted the Governor's "Stay Home - Stay Healthy," order which was issued on March
9 23, 2020, and amended on May 31, 2020, to be the "Safe Start - Safety Healthy" order,
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the significant progression of COVID-19 in Washington state and
12 the public safety preventative measures, including social distancing and the Governor's
13 order, are causing devastating effects on the physical health, mental health, behavioral
14 health and well-being of residents and are exacerbating the incidence of substance use
15 disorder and homelessness, and

16 WHEREAS, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are also causing
17 extraordinary, unprecedented and devastating effects on the economy which have led to
18 the highest levels of unemployment in recorded history in King County and Washington
19 state, and

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20 WHEREAS, state and local government revenues have plummeted in an
21 extremely short amount of time, and

22 WHEREAS, the pandemic has hit for-profit and nonprofit organizations alike in a
23 devastating manner, and

24 WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, the federal government adopted the Coronavirus
25 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"), which provided relief to state
26 and local governments through a variety of federal agencies and programs, such as the
27 Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"), the Housing and Urban
28 Development's Community Development Block Grants and Public Health and Social
29 Services Emergency Fund through Health and Human Services, as well the Treasury
30 Department's Coronavirus Relief Fund to cover costs that state and local governments
31 have incurred in their responses to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-
32 19, and

33 WHEREAS, on May 26, 2020, the council passed Motion 15638 setting the
34 county's priorities for allocation of the CARES Act moneys, which informed the adoption
35 of five emergency supplemental appropriation ordinances totaling more than \$320
36 million for necessary expenditures preparing for and responding to the mitigating impact
37 of and preventing COVID-19 throughout the county, and

38 WHEREAS, the county anticipates receiving additional federal and state COVID-
39 19 relief moneys in 2021 and the council has identified expenditure priorities that should
40 receive preference when the executive is considering proposals for allocation of those
41 moneys;

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

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43 A. The county reasserts its highest priority for allocation of COVID-19 federal
44 and state relief moneys to direct the county's COVID-19 response, including testing;
45 contact tracing; isolation and quarantine, assessment and recovery, and shelter de-
46 intensification sites; technical support to community organizations and vaccination
47 distribution and administration. It is the intent of the council that the county's public
48 health response be flexible, nimble, effective and adaptive to unforeseen developments in
49 the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

50 B. The county shall use a principled approach based on our equity and social
51 justice values and in promoting antiracist outcomes in the allocation of COVID-19 relief
52 moneys to ensure assistance is provided where it is needed most. Investments in public
53 health should ensure the health and safety of all in our county and should be supported by
54 the expertise of the county's personnel who follow science-based practices. The intention
55 of using a principled approach is to: focus on immediate relief while recognizing and
56 increasingly planning for our long-term recovery; meeting our residents' basic needs,
57 especially for food and housing stability; ensuring uninterrupted delivery of our core
58 essential services, while still exercising responsible spending and accountability
59 measures; and ensuring future needs be met, while creating immediate solutions that are
60 sufficiently thoughtful to ensure lasting impacts.

61 C. The county shall prioritize a narrow range of services to ensure that limited
62 federal and state relief moneys have the most-effective recovery impact and avoid
63 duplication of services or having several agencies providing the same service. Also,
64 where possible, the county should prioritize utilizing existing programs, developed in
65 2020 through CARES Act funding, that can quickly and effectively get relief funding out

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66 into communities in need.

67 D. The county recognizes the administrative burdens with allocating federal and
68 state COVID-19 relief moneys, such as establishing contracts, abiding by reporting
69 requirements and adhering to complex accounting procedures. The county shall make an
70 effort to limit administrative burdens for organizations in applying for and receiving of
71 COVID-19 relief moneys. As allowed under federal rules, strategies such as establishing
72 a revolving fund to provide moneys upfront rather than on a reimbursement basis are
73 critical for small organizations that may not have the cash surplus to wait for
74 reimbursement. In addition, in deciding how to allocate those moneys, the county should
75 make an effort to strike a balance between providing resources to established programs
76 that can readily and quickly provide relief to the public and providing resources to
77 smaller or newer community-based organizations that have relationships with the hardest
78 to reach communities.

79 E. The county's priorities for allocation of COVID-19 relief moneys available in
80 2021 above amounts needed for the county's direct emergency response should be
81 allocated for the following, in no particular order:

82 1. Food security and access services. Those services may take the form of food
83 banks, organizations providing meals, such as senior centers, community centers, schools
84 or organizations connecting farmers with the market and those most in need of food,
85 while ensuring culturally appropriate food options remain available. The county should
86 also consider the acquisition of centralized cold storage and refrigeration trucks for
87 movement of produce;

88 2. Housing stability and homelessness services. Those services will keep people

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89 connected to housing, keep them in their homes and provide protections for those unable
90 to pay their housing and face eviction or foreclosure. The county should also prioritize
91 increasing the number of twenty-four hour, seven-days-a-week noncongregate sheltering,
92 continue efforts aimed at shelter deintensification and be mindful of the unique needs
93 faced by the immigrant, refugee and undocumented populations;

94 3. Child care and workforce support services. Those services should support
95 child care for children of first responders, essential workers and other individuals in the
96 workforce who have been economically impacted by the public health emergency. The
97 services should also include both preserving and increasing existing child care programs
98 and providing funding assistance if needed to families with children. If allowed by
99 federal rules, assistance should be provided to stimulate job creation through
100 development of job training programs. As much as possible, the county should expand
101 access to education, vaccination and other services important to workers by providing
102 equitable digital access to individuals who were not included in the digital equity
103 program established in 2020 through CARES Act moneys;

104 4. Economic recovery services. Those services should be prioritized to assist
105 key institutions, such as private businesses, including small businesses, nonprofit
106 organizations, local chambers of commerce, community-based organizations, cities and
107 the unincorporated area and in particular the hospitality industry, which includes the
108 travel and tourism sector, arts and culture sector, food and beverage sector and the
109 lodging sector;

110 5. Mental health, behavioral health, substance use disorder, safety and security
111 services. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency have hit

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112 vulnerable populations particularly hard and have resulted in increased reporting of
113 individuals struggling with mental health, behavioral health and substance use disorder.
114 Services providing support for those suffering from domestic violence or intimate partner
115 abuse, and sexual violence, child abuse and neglect and chronic substance use disorder
116 should be prioritized, including those services that focus on unhoused populations; and

117 6. The judicial system. In-person access to the judicial system has been limited
118 due to social distancing requiring an increase in conducting businesses virtually. Such
119 practices restrict the courts' ability to effectively administer cases and have exacerbated
120 inequities in accessing the judicial system, particularly for residents with limited digital
121 access and proficiency, disabilities and limited English proficiency. Providing support
122 for equitable access to the judicial system and ensuring the justice system can operate
123 fairly and equitably should be prioritized.

124 F. The council requests that the county executive prioritize the principles,


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125 services and programs in sections A. through E. of this motion in the proposals allocating
126 federal and state COVID-19 relief moneys that are available in 2021.
127

Motion 15816 was introduced on 2/9/2021 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 2/9/2021, by the following vote:

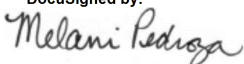
Yes: 9 - Ms. Balducci, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Upthegrove, Mr. von Reichbauer and Mr. Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

8DE1BB375AD3422...

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None

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 Angel Allende
 401 5th Ave
 Suite 100
 Seattle, WA 98104
 Angel.Allende@kingcounty.gov
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Claudia Balducci
 claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov
 King County General (ITD)
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

Signature

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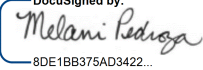
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Melani Pedroza
 melani.pedroza@kingcounty.gov
 Clerk of the Council
 King County Council
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Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
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Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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