

C O U N T Y A D M I N I S T R A T O R



SUSAN S. MURANISHI
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

November 3, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO OFFSET
ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19 FOR SMALL, EMERGING
BUSINESSES AND THE ARTS IN ALAMEDA COUNTY**

RECOMMENDATION:

In order to help offset the economic impacts of COVID-19 on small emerging businesses and the arts in Alameda County, it is recommended that your Board:

A. Authorize implementation of the following one-time, short-term initiatives:

- i. Alameda County Arts Relief program administered by the Auditor-Controller in collaboration with the Alameda County Arts Commission in an amount not to exceed \$900,000;
- ii. Small, Local and Emerging Business Grants program administered by the East Bay Economic Development Alliance (EBEDA) in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000;
- iii. COVID-19 Business Adaptation Grants (BAG) program for the unincorporated areas administered by the Alameda County Community Development Agency in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000; and

B. Authorize the Auditor-Controller and the County Administrator to make the required budget adjustments.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

The COVID-19 pandemic's economic impact has been swift and far-reaching. While our COVID-19 related unanticipated expenditures far outpace the allocation of State and Federal stimulus funds, we are recommending redirection of a limited amount of restricted funds to assist some of the most

impacted sectors of our local economy that may not yet have accessed short-term economic relief funds. The economic impacts to small emerging businesses and the arts have been pronounced and few have the financial resources needed to survive the prolonged and continued restrictions imposed due to the pandemic. Small local business survival and sustainability is vital to restoring economic activity, retaining quality jobs, and driving development in those communities most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three distinct grant programs will focus on specific sectors and each have unique criteria. Programs will be implemented and administered by one of three County agencies/departments – the Arts Commission/Auditor-Controller Agency, Community Development Agency or the East Bay EDA. Although grants will be considered for COVID-19 related business impacts occurring between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020, funds are limited and not all applicants will be guaranteed to receive funding.

More detailed information about each of the programs will be available on the County's website.

FINANCING:

These programs will be funded by redirecting restricted one-time State and federal funding sources available for COVID-19 responses and will not increase net County costs.

VISION 2026:

The Alameda County COVID-19 small business and arts investments align with our shared vision of a **Prosperous and Vibrant Economy**.

Very truly yours,



Susan S. Muranishi
County Administrator

SSM:AC:sg

cc: County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Community Development Agency Director
EBEDA Executive Director