CARES Act funding helps provide for thousands of Auburn residents

As the pandemic took a toll on families over the past year, Community Services Director Alfred Davis and his team tackled a familiar task with a greater sense of urgency — helping meet community needs through federal grant money allocated to the City of Auburn.

Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in the spring of 2020. Through the grant money allocated to the City so far, 6,126 Auburn residents have found relief.

Auburn is one of 15 entitlement communities in Alabama, allowing the City to receive grant money through the CARES Act to help citizens struggling through the pandemic. The Community Services Department aids families and nonprofits annually through the Community Development Block Grant program, and the CARES Act funding helps the City extend those efforts.

After receiving word of the relief package, Davis and his team got to work.

“We keep our ears to the ground so we know what the needs are, and this year has been a unique experience,” Davis said. “People are struggling and have been trying to deal with negative impacts of the pandemic largely in isolation. We are fortunate to have received additional funding to help provide some relief — to individuals and to some incredible nonprofits that we support.”

In total, the City will receive about $1.57 million in coronavirus relief funding that will be distributed in three allocation rounds. A portion of the first two rounds of grant money, which totaled $821,280, was used to help pre-qualified families pay utilities, mortgage or rent. So far, about $147,881 has been used for homelessness prevention efforts. The third round of funding, for which the City has applied, is expected to total $750,000.

When the pandemic was in full force, the Food Bank of East Alabama saw declines in food donations and an increase in needs. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County’s Auburn Unit, among others, were able to continue providing essential services to seniors, youth and families after implementing new ideas and receiving financial support from the City.

Many families have found a helping hand through local nonprofits. Organizations like the Food Bank of East Alabama, Joyland Child Development Center, Auburn Day Care Center, Auburn Senior Center and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County’s Auburn Unit, among others, were able to continue providing essential services to seniors, youth and families after implementing new ideas and receiving financial support from the City.

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Back in person: public meetings transition away from Zoom

In April, the Auburn City Council returned to meeting in person after nearly a year of virtual Zoom meetings. Most of our other boards and commissions followed suit and resumed in-person meetings in April and May. City Council, Back in person: public meetings transition away from Zoom

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JUNE 2021

upcoming
events

Auburn Public Library
auburnalabama.org/library

City Meetings
auburnalabama.org/boards

Parks & Recreation
auburnalabama.org/parks

Story Time (in person/virtual) Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Story Time (virtual only) Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Story Time (virtual only) Thursdays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Story Time (in person/virtual) Fridays @ 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Story Time (in person/virtual) Fridays @ 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Story Time (virtual only) Fridays @ 10:30 a.m.

Crafternoons Thursdays @ 2 p.m.

Board of Zoning Adjustment 4:30 p.m.

Marvel Movie Madness @ 2 p.m.

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