

# GUIDE TO COUNTY SERVICES

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## PRESS RELEASE DETAILS

### Seminole County Proposes Seminole CARES Relief Package

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#### Seminole County Proposes Seminole CARES Relief Package

#### \$20 Million Designated to Support County Businesses and Residents

**SEMINOLE COUNTY, FL (July 15, 2020)** - The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners approved a comprehensive relief package to spend up to \$82 million in Federal CARES Act funding at a County work session on Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Seminole CARES proposes 100% of the initial CARES Act funds be allocated towards County businesses, individuals, and not-for-profits hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Seminole CARES Small Business Grant* effort will expand from \$1.2 million to \$10 million. The County has also earmarked \$7 million for *Seminole CARES Individual Grants*, supporting County residents with rent, mortgage, and utility costs, and \$3 million for *Seminole CARES Not-For-Profit* support.

The State of Florida has allocated \$82 million to Seminole County in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds, which are intended to address the economic consequences due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The County has received an initial disbursement of \$20,582,500, or 25% of the total allocation for which the County is eligible. The state is releasing the remaining funds in phases and all funds must be distributed by December 30, 2020.

"I am proud that Seminole County is able to provide support to our residents and businesses so that they can continue their recovery," said Jay Zembower, Seminole County Commission Chairman. "We appreciate our state partners for putting these dollars directly into our communities so that our citizens can rebound and thrive."

Seminole County will work closely with community not-for-profits hardest hit by the pandemic, as well as Seminole's seven cities and Constitutional Offices. CARES dollars cannot be utilized by local governments to replace lost revenue, however County, city, and Constitutional Offices may use CARES funds to offset expenses related to the pandemic, including costs associated with increased testing, protective measures to prevent further spread of the virus, and unbudgeted expenditures associated with COVID-19.

Seminole County received CARES funding about two months after those counties with a population of more than 500,000 received disbursements. Seminole, along with 54 other Florida counties, was unable to offer expanded funding for small businesses and residential grants due to this delay.

Details regarding the application process for both the small business and individual grants are forthcoming. Interested parties should visit [www.seminolcountyfl.gov](http://www.seminolcountyfl.gov) for regular updates.

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