

SEMINOLE CARES INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT ASSISTANCE

The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners approved a comprehensive CARES Act relief package on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. The Seminole CARES program allocates \$7 million towards individual assistance and \$3 million towards assistance for Not-for-Profit agencies.

Seminole County Government will invest \$10 million into social services and community needs for residents. Approximately \$7 million have been allocated for the Individual and Family Assistance Program. The program will provide a one-time payment of up to \$5,000 per household for residents affected by COVID-19. Funds for this program will assist residents to bridge financial gaps for rent, mortgage, or utility expense.

Another \$3 million have been allocated for Direct Assistance to Social-Service Agencies to expand funding for Seminole County partner nonprofits. These organizations will work directly with the County to provide continuity of service for residents seeking assistance with homelessness, mental health and substance abuse, food pantries, job retention and child care. The Federal CARES Act provides the funding for these County programs.

WHEN WILL THE SEMINOLE CARES INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEGIN?

Seminole County will launch the application portal for individual assistance grants by mid-August.

HOW CAN I RECEIVE UPDATES ABOUT THE SEMINOLE CARES INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

Information regarding the CARES grant funding application process will be on the Seminole County website and County social media platforms.

HOW MUCH CAN AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVE IN GRANT FUNDS?

The maximum amount of assistance provided to individuals is up to \$5,000 (including gift cards for basic needs and food)

WHAT ARE ELIGIBLE EXPENSES FOR THIS GRANT?

- Rent or mortgage assistance (up to 3 months of assistance)
 - Utility Assistance (water, electric, gas for residence)
 - Gift cards for food and basic needs assistance (up to \$200 of assistance, \$100 for food and \$100 for basic needs)
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CAN I APPLY FOR THE SEMINOLE CARES INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE GRANT IF I RECEIVED ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY RELATED TO COVID-19 SINCE MARCH 2020?

Individuals are eligible for one-time support up to \$5,000. If you have previously applied and been denied, please apply through the new portal. If you have received assistance prior to July 2020, you may be eligible for additional assistance. Staff will contact you directly if you are eligible.

WHAT DOCUMENTS WILL BE NEEDED TO APPLY FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE?

- Valid Photo ID for adult in the household
 - Lease Agreement or Mortgage Statement
 - Utility Bill (if requesting utility assistance)
 - Documentation of financial hardship related to COVID-19 (job loss letter, proof of unemployment, reduced hours at work, furlough letter)
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WHEN WILL THE SEMINOLE CARES NOT-FOR-PROFIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEGIN?

Applications for assistance will be available by August 1st for Not-for-profits to apply. There is no closure date but funding is limited for agencies are encouraged to apply early as funding will be awarded on a first-come-first completed basis.

WHAT IS THE SPENDING DEADLINE FOR FUNDS?

Funds provided to Not-for-profit agencies must be expended by December 30, 2020.