

Seminole CARES Individual Assistance Grant

Seminole County will invest \$7 million towards individual assistance as part of the *Seminole CARES* program, a broad relief program supporting the needs of business owners, residents, not-for-profits, and municipal and community partners.

This one-time grant places emphasis on Seminole County residents that have been negatively impacted by the global pandemic. Funding for this program is made available through the Federal CARES Act.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply for the *Seminole CARES* Individual Assistance Grant?

All applications for individual assistance will be accepted through the *Seminole CARES* portal, an online application that will launch for *Seminole CARES* Individual Assistance Grants on **Wednesday, August 26, 2020**. Please continue to visit the *Seminole CARES* website for further updates regarding the launch of the portal, the application process, and funding timeline. www.SeminoleCares.com

When does the application process begin?

The *Seminole CARES Individual Assistance* portal will open on **Wednesday, August 26, 2020**. Please continue to visit the *Seminole CARES* website for further details regarding the launch of the portal, application process, and funding timeline. www.SeminoleCares.com

How much money can I receive?

The maximum amount of assistance provided per household is \$5,000. This includes rent or mortgage assistance, utility assistance (gas, electric, and water utilities only) and up to \$200 in gift cards for food or basic needs. Only one individual per household may apply.

What documents are required in order to apply?

The following documents are required in order to complete the application:

- ☐ **Florida Identification:** A scanned copy of the front of your Florida driver's license or identification card for an adult in the household
- ☐ **Lease or Mortgage:** A copy of the mortgage or lease agreement for your residence
- ☐ **Utilities:** A copy of your utility bill(s) if requesting utility assistance. Eligible utilities are gas, electric, and water
- ☐ **Demonstrated Loss Due to COVID-19:** Documentation of financial hardship related to COVID-19, such as job loss letter, proof of unemployment, reduced hours at work, or furlough letter

How do I know if I am eligible?

In order to receive funding, you must:

- ☐ **Demonstrate you are a United States Citizen or permanent legal resident**
- ☐ **Demonstrate you are a Seminole County resident**
- ☐ **Demonstrate you are at least 18 years old**
- ☐ **Pay rent or mortgage costs in Seminole County.** Only rent or mortgage costs will be supported for your main residence which must be located in Seminole County
- ☐ **Demonstrate economic impact due to COVID-19.** An adult in your household has lost their job, experienced a reduction in work hours, or can document financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

How can this grant be used?

Applicable Expenses for this Grant:

- ☐ Up to three (3) months of rent or mortgage assistance
- ☐ Up to three months of utility assistance. Eligible utilities are gas, electric, and water
- ☐ Up to \$200 in gift cards for food and basic needs (\$100 for food and \$100 for basic needs)

The maximum grant amount per household is \$5,000 or three (3) months of rent/mortgage and utility assistance (whichever is less).

Can I apply for the *Seminole CARES* Small Business Grant and the *Seminole CARES* Residential Grant?

Qualified applicants will receive funds for one *Seminole CARES* grant program only. Interested applicants should review the criteria for both programs to ensure he/she applies for the program for which they are most qualified.

Can I apply for the *Seminole CARES* Individual Assistance Grant if I received County assistance directly related to COVID-19 since March 2020?

Individuals are eligible for a one-time grant up to \$5,000. If you have previously received support from the County and were denied, please apply for funding as part of the *Seminole CARES* portal process that launches on **August 26, 2020**. If you received assistance *prior to July 2020*, you may be eligible for additional grant funds. You will be contacted by a Community Services staff member if you are eligible.

Can more than one person in my household apply for this grant?

Only one individual per household may apply for the *Seminole CARES* Individual Grant. Households that submit multiple applications will not be considered.

If approved, how are grant funds distributed?

Grant funds will be paid directly to the applicant's landlord or mortgage company and eligible utilities. If awarded assistance for food or other basic needs, applicants will be contacted by Seminole County Community Services to pick-up gift cards.

Is this program the Seminole County Rental Assistance Program?

The Rental/Mortgage/Utility Assistance Program operated by Seminole County Community Services is funded by the County's General Fund. The *Seminole CARES* Individual Assistance Grant is funded by the Federal CARES Act. Although both programs provide similar support, they are different in terms of the process and funding.

If I have received funding through Seminole County's Rental Assistance Program, can I apply for the *Seminole CARES* Individual Assistance Grant?

Yes, if you have received assistance with rent/mortgage/utilities through Seminole County's Rental Assistance Program NOT related to COVID-19 within the last two (2) years, you CAN apply for the *Seminole CARES* grant.

I received funding through the Seminole County Rental Assistance Program after March 1, 2020 for losses due to COVID-19. Can I still apply for the *Seminole CARES* Grant?

The maximum amount of assistance available per household is \$5,000 (or three (3) months of rent/mortgage/utility support, whichever is less). Individuals who received only one (1) month of assistance due to COVID-19 hardship will be contacted directly by Seminole County Community Services.

Can I submit an incomplete application?

Applications that are incomplete, illegible, missing documentation, or are falsified will not be processed.

Do I have to pay this grant back?

No, this is not a loan. Qualified applicants will not be required to pay awarded funds back.