

Town of Franklin

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OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

April 16, 2021

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator

RE: CARES Act/FEMA & Federal COVID-19 Reimbursement Summary

The following is an overview on revenue the Town has received from various federal sources for COVID-19 Relief. These revenues by state are required to be in special revenue accounts and are outside the Town's operating budget.

CARES ACT

The Town was awarded \$2.929 million in CARES Act federal stimulus money. These funds are floated through the state Executive Office of Administration & Finance (A&F) and were apportioned based on population. There were 2 rounds of CARES Act funding applications in 2020, with a third expected later in 2021. CARES Act funds have been extended through December 31, 2021 and the Town has received its full allotment.

The two largest allotments of CARES money went towards the purchase of student Chromebooks in order to support remote learning and expand the town's telework capacity (Approximately 1 million dollars). The second largest allotment went towards the UVGI retrofit in municipal and school buildings. This project is ongoing, additional information for the UV retrofit is below. Overall, the majority of CARES Act resources was allocated toward the schools to support remote learning, telework and provide a safe work environment.

Expenditure Category	Amount
Chromebooks	\$964,000.00
UV Lighting	\$875,628.19
HEPA Filters	\$429,412.00
PPE & Disinfectant	\$409,057.88
Personnel - School Department	\$188,302.63
Personnel - Fire Department (Vaccination Clinic OT)	\$35,004.26
Social Distancing Measures - PlexiGlass	\$18,869.88
AeroClave	\$3,979.50
Temperature Scanners	\$3,058.66
GATRA - Senior Center Bussing	\$2,500.00
TOTAL CARES	\$2,929,813.00

UV Lighting Retrofit Projects Update: The Town of Franklin is the first and only Town in Massachusetts to do UVGI retrofits to date, which will ensure the maximum safety of staff, residents, and students as we continue to reopen at larger capacities throughout the pandemic. The Town has signed a contract with Guardian Energy Management for the installation of UV lighting at all Municipal buildings and School Buildings (with the exception of Davis-Thayer, which was also the most expensive project to retrofit). This retrofit will add UV lighting to each building's existing HVAC systems. The installation of UV lights kills viruses at a 99.8% kill rate, including COVID-19, as they are cycled through the return ducts. It is safe to say our buildings are, and will be for the long term, some of the safest municipal facilities in the Commonwealth.

FEMA Reimbursement

In 2020, the Town received a 75% reimbursement for PPE and sanitizing supplies from FEMA. In July the Town applied for \$209,493.62 to be reimbursed at a rate of 75% so approximately \$157,120.22 in FEMA assistance for PPE. In September the Town applied for an additional \$269,670.30 to be reimbursed at 75% so approximately \$202,252.73. The Town will continue to apply for FEMA reimbursements for the length of the State of emergency in Massachusetts as costs come in. As a result of the ever changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic, FEMA adjusted their regulations in late January of 2021, altering the reimbursement rates from 75% to 100% for eligible expenses. You can find more information on FEMA's updated guidance [HERE](#). The Town is still waiting to receive reimbursements from FEMA.

FEMA	Department	COVID-19 Related Expenditures	Amount
ROUND #1	Facilities, Fire, Police, School, DPW	PPE, sanitization materials, Equipment - Protect employees and clean facilities	\$166,841.01
3/1/20 - 6/30/20	Fire/Police/School	Personnel Salaries - COVID related training/support/overtime	\$42,652.61
ROUND #2	Facilities, Fire, Police, School, DPW	PPE, sanitization materials, Equipment - Protect employees and clean facilities	\$218,692.53
7/1/20 - 9/15/20	Fire/Police/School	Personnel Salaries - COVID related training/support/overtime	\$50,977.77
		TOTAL APPLIED FOR FEMA FUNDS (assumes 100% reimbursement)	\$479,163.92

Round #3	Facilities, Fire, Police, DPW	PPE, sanitization materials, Equipment - Protect employees and clean facilities	\$109,215.81
9/16/20- 12/31/20	Fire/Police	Personnel Salaries - COVID related training/support/overtime	\$5,156.69
		TOTAL ANTICIPATED FEMA FUNDS (assumes 100% reimbursement)	\$114,372

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

Here are the funding sources for the Franklin Public School District:

- The School Department was given \$1,156,275 in Coronavirus Relief Funding (CvRF) grant money from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) to allocate towards the school reopening process including instructional/professional staff salaries, support staff salaries, technology and PPE.
- The School Foodservice Department received \$10,485 in CvRF funding to support meal preparation and service/delivery to students during the pandemic. Additional State food service grants in the amount of \$11,632 allowed for purchase of software and related supplies to pivot to online meal ordering and preparation of individually wrapped meals.

- The schools received \$123,235 in Federal ESSER I funding primarily allocated towards meeting the unique needs of special student populations. Federal ESSER II funding was allocated in the amount of \$475,496 to be used in FY2022 to further address the unique needs of special student populations.
- The FY21 state budget allocated \$173,225 in Coronavirus Prevention Funding for additional assistance to support coronavirus prevention efforts and to maintain and increase educational quality during the pandemic. Senator Rausch supported an earmark that allotted Franklin \$20,834 for the purpose of adapting learning environments to changes necessitated by COVID.
- DESE also provided the schools with 650 Medify-40 Air Purifier units, each unit cost ~\$349 and they were shipped to the Schools for free by DESE. The total cost of these units was approximately \$226,850.

MicroEnterprise Grants

The Town was part of a consortium of six local communities who applied for a regional microenterprise grant program for small businesses of 5 or fewer employees in Franklin. The application period is underway and we expect approximately \$90,000 in revenue granted to small businesses. As of February local businesses have applied for approximately \$62,000 of the \$90,000 in available funds.

The grant also assured the Franklin Food Pantry with \$9,000 dollars in direct assistance.

Additional Grants

Department	Grant	Purpose	Amount
Senior Center	Greater Milford Community Health Network (CHNA6)	To continue the Senior Center's Curbside Meal program until the Spring	\$10,000
Town Clerk's Department	Center for Tech and Civic Life Grant	Used for the purchase of election related supplies and to supplement election workers salaries	\$11,630
Health Department	Central Mass Regional Planning Commission	Used to raise awareness of COVID 19 prevention through signs, banners and billboards.	\$8,750
TOTAL			\$30,380

American Rescue Plan

On March 12, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act. Details will continue to unfold on this extensive legislation and we are awaiting word on how this will fully affect Franklin. Congressman Jake Auchincloss has provided an early assessment of the legislation. Franklin will see approximately \$3.36 million in federal assistance and will be eligible through December 2024. The Franklin Public Schools will see an estimated \$1.136 million in further ESSR funding. DESE will offer guidance on how funds for school districts will be apportioned. There are additional monies available through other programs, notably relief for hard hit sectors of the economy such as hospitality, restaurants, retail and entertainment. The staff will continue to update the community as this legislation rolls out in the months ahead. The federal government announced guidance on spending will be available in May.

[Click here for a slideshow from Congressman Auchincloss.](#)