

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 Lord/Aderhold/Venuti

4 **RESOLUTION 20-071**

5
6 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA
7 ESTABLISHING THE NONPROFIT ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT
8 PROGRAM (NERG), HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT
9 PROGRAM (HERG), SOCIAL SERVICES ECONOMIC RELIEF GRANT
10 PROGRAM (SoSERG), AND CHILDCARE BUSINESS ECONOMIC
11 RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM (CBERG) IN RESPONSE TO THE
12 ECONOMIC DOWNFALL CAUSED BY MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSURE
13 PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE FACE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.
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15 WHEREAS, On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Public Health and
16 Human Services Secretary, Alex Azar, declared a public emergency for the novel coronavirus
17 (COVID-19) beginning on January 27, 2020; and
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19 WHEREAS, On March 11, 2020, Governor Mike Dunleavy signed a Public Health Disaster
20 Emergency Declaration that provided for health mandates to be issued when deemed
21 necessary by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Alaska Chief Medical
22 Officer, the Alaska Division of Public Health, and the Office of the Governor; and
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24 WHEREAS, On March 17, 2020, Governor Dunleavy, in recognition of the tremendous
25 negative economic consequences of imposing social and business restrictions to avoid a rapid
26 spread of the virus effects, created the Alaska Economic Stabilization Team, a bipartisan group
27 of leaders working with the Dunleavy administration on a plan to protect the state's economy
28 from the impacts of COVID-19 in Alaska; and
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30 WHEREAS, On March 18, 2020, Ken Castner, Mayor of the City of Homer, issued a
31 Declaration of a Local Emergency, later ratified and extended by the Homer City Council
32 through Resolution 20-029, that found there to be "a wide-spread financial and public health
33 emergency that will require unexpected expenditures of public funds that should be separately
34 accounted, to perhaps be eligible for Emergency Disaster Relief"; and
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36 WHEREAS, The Dunleavy administration issued a series of compulsory, and later
37 suggestive, directives and mandates that closed many businesses, placed restrictions on those
38 businesses that might remain open, ceased most interstate and intrastate travel, and generally
39 kept most citizenry isolated at home; and
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41 WHEREAS, The Dunleavy administration issued a series of compulsory, and later
42 suggestive directives and mandates including "stay at home" orders, the banning of gatherings

43 of more than 10 people for social, spiritual, and recreational purposes, and further imposed
44 that any activities outside the home meet social distancing and personal safety requirements;
45 and

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47 WHEREAS, The cumulative effects of the State mandates and restrictions have caused
48 significant negative economic impacts to individuals and households such as lost employment
49 and reduced work hours; have impacted the ability of nonprofit organizations to raise funds
50 needed to operate and provide services; have resulted in a greater local need for and to
51 support social services; and have compromised the ability of childcare service providers to
52 operate safely; and

53
54 WHEREAS, Supporting individuals and households during this period of economic
55 hardship is in the best interest of the City; and

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57 WHEREAS, Nonprofits provide regular, ongoing essential services to City of Homer
58 residents and contribute to the fabric and culture of our thriving community while also
59 providing substantial positive economic impact and employment opportunities; and

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61 WHEREAS, Nonprofits and businesses that provide social services to individuals and
62 households in the City of Homer are critical to support during a time of pandemic and
63 economic downturn; and

64
65 WHEREAS, Continued functioning of childcare services is critical for individuals and
66 households to return to work and childcare service providers struggle to remain viable while
67 following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) health guidelines in the face of COVID-19; and

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69 WHEREAS, The State of Alaska received \$562.5 million in federal funding under the
70 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) that is directed to Alaska's
71 municipalities for direct relief designed to help meet each community's unique needs and
72 costs associated with coping with COVID-19; and

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74 WHEREAS, The City of Homer's total allocation is \$7,899,085.29; and

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76 WHEREAS, On May 26, 2020, the Homer City Council passed Resolution 20-051
77 accepting the CARES Act grant and authorizing the City Manager to sign the grant agreement;
78 and

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80 WHEREAS, The first distribution to the City, \$3,867,758.79, was appropriated via
81 Ordinance 20-25(S) on June 8, 2020; and

82

83 WHEREAS, Two subsequent distributions of \$2,015,663.25 will be available to the city
84 on or about July 1, 2020 and October 1, 2020 once the City has expended 80% of previous
85 distributions; and

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87 WHEREAS, The City Council established the Small Business Economic Relief Grant
88 (SBERG) Program through Resolution 20-057 on June 8, 2020; and

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90 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic and City actions taken as a result to protect public
91 health as described above have created immediate necessity for further economic relief
92 programs to the community in the form of grants to individuals and households residing in the
93 City of Homer and nonprofit organizations, social service nonprofits and businesses, and
94 childcare service providers providing services to City of Homer residents; and

95
96 WHEREAS, The expenses associated with these additional COVID-19 economic relief
97 programs were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December
98 31, 2020 and are not accounted for in the FY20-21 budget.

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100 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Homer establishes the following
101 programs to respond to the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and
102 associated health mandates:

- 103
104 a) Household Economic Relief Grant (HERG) Program
105 b) Nonprofit Economic Relief Grant (NERG) Program
106 c) Social Services Economic Relief Grant (SoSERG) Program
107 d) Childcare Business Economic Relief Grant (CBERG) Program

108
109 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City's ability to successfully run these programs is
110 contingent upon receiving CARES Act funding from the State of Alaska.

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112 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the parameters of the abovementioned programs are
113 adopted as the HERG, NERG, SoSERG, and CBERG program policies under this resolution.

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115 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Homer will exercise best efforts to
116 communicate the opportunities for these programs throughout the community and provide
117 technical assistance to anyone who is working to submit successful applications to the grant
118 programs.

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120 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City administration will provide regular reports to
121 the Homer City Council about the status of these programs including information such as the
122 number of applications received, number of applications processed, issues encountered, and
123 account balances of program funds.

124

125 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these programs will be issued with a given application
126 period to assess whether additional funds for the programs are needed or to assess if unspent
127 funds allocated to these programs need to be reappropriated to meet other needs.
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129 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this Resolution shall preclude the Homer City
130 Council from creating additional distributions to the community that follow CARES Act
131 prescriptions, and that the provisions in this Resolution become effective upon adoption and
132 shall continue until further formal action of the Homer City Council or until the date that all
133 CARES Act funds must be expended on eligible costs by December 30, 2020.
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135 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Homer, Alaska, this ___ day of _____,
136 2020.

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CITY OF HOMER

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KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

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144 ATTEST:

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MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

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149 Fiscal Note: N/A