



MEMORANDUM

TO: Michael L. Thurmond, Chief Executive Officer, DeKalb County
Zach Williams, Chief Operating Officer / Executive Assistant, DeKalb County

FROM: Lamar W. Smith, County Director, DeKalb County DFCS

Date: September 10, 2020

RE: Requests for additional General Assistance Funds and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

DeKalb County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) works to ensure the social and economic well-being of the County's vulnerable, children, youth, and families by providing quality services and access to resources. In addition to our 24-hour child protective services response and eligibility determination and disbursement of financial assistance, DeKalb DFCS provides general assistance to the County's neediest citizens.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on our families and communities, we are prepared to continue to offer emergency financial assistance through our existing General Assistance Program. The General Assistance Program is funded annually by DeKalb County Government and provided utility and rental assistance.

DeKalb DFCS is positioned to work collaboratively and be a part of a network of County partners poised to meet the current needs of DeKalb's residents while working to forecast and devise future strategies to support families through this health and economic crisis. To meet growing needs the General Assistance Program would be able to support increased demand with a few adjustments to eligibility requirements as well as increased levels financial support.

Modifications to the General Assistance Program could include the following:

- I. Expand options for DeKalb residents access the General Assistance Programs (submission of applications)
 - 2300 Parklake Drive (main DFCS Office) via drop box:
 - DeKalb DFCS Access and Resource Center (ARC) – 949 North Hairston Road
 - Via email (email address forthcoming)

- II. Increase the frequency residents can apply and increase the maximum dollar amount that may be approved (previously applications were approved one-time annually) modifications (as of May 2020) follow:
- Residents may apply for general assistance to cover utilities **once every 120 – days / up to \$350**
 - Residents may apply for general assistance to cover rent and/or mortgage **once every 6-months / up to \$1,200**

To make these adjustments in administering the General Assistance Program (administration and direct benefit), I am requesting **\$275,000** in funding.

Fund Disbursement Trends March 2020 – July 2020

Type of Assistance	March	April	May	June	July
Utility	\$1,457.23	\$544.66	\$1,157.67	\$4,983.54	\$1,430.76
Rental / Mortgage	\$13,563.00	\$23,493.71	\$25,673.38	\$30,865.11	\$23,468.95
Total	\$15,020.23	\$24,038.37	\$26,831.05	\$35,848.65	\$24,899.71

Additionally, safety is paramount for DeKalb DFCS. Child Protective Services (CPS) and Foster Care Case Managers continue to make home visits when there are concerns related to neglect and/or abuse and to ensure children and families remain connected. It is imperative children, youth, and families as well as the 500+ DeKalb DFCS staff members remain safe and that exposure to the Coronavirus is mitigated. To meet this need. I am requesting **750 face masks and 1000 pairs of gloves**.