

Ordinance 2020-16
Monroe County Appropriation Ordinance
Supporting COVID-19-related Assistance and Emergency Relief

Come now the Monroe County Board of Commissioners (“Commissioners”), who pledge Monroe County’s assistance and financial support for emergency relief efforts, related to the Coronavirus 19 outbreak (“COVID-19”), and state the following:

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2020, Indiana Governor, Eric J. Holcomb, declared a Public Health Emergency and issued Executive Order 20-02, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, when the Governor utilizes his executive authority to declare an emergency, Indiana Code 10-14-3-12 and 10-14-3-17, provide political subdivisions the ability to respond and to waive procedures and formalities, where necessary; and,

WHEREAS, Monroe County adopted procedures for management of emergencies, which are codified in Monroe County Code 450; and,

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Presiding Officer of the Monroe County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to Monroe County Code 450, declared a seven (7) day local emergency for all of Monroe County, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County previously adopted a Rainy Day Fund, pursuant to the authority granted it under IC 36-1-8-5.1; and

WHEREAS, supporting the work of social service agencies through the provision of Community Services Grants has long been a tradition of Monroe County Government, since its adoption of Resolution 2008-51 and 2013-15; and

WHEREAS, because Indiana is facing a Public Health Emergency and because of the pressure, uncertainty, and financial tension resulting from the outbreak of COVID-19, the Monroe County Board of Commissioners (“Commissioners”) wish to support Monroe County residents through the efforts of the United Way of Monroe County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Declaration and Finding that Emergency Relief is Necessary

Through the authority granted to Monroe County government by various provisions of state and local law, including but not limited to Indiana Code 10-14-3-17, Indiana Code 36-1-8-5.1, Resolutions 2008-51 and Resolution 2013-15, and Monroe County Code Chapter 450, the Monroe County Commissioners (“Commissioners”) hereby ratify the March 16th declaration of the Presiding Officer and extend the emergency through April 1, 2020. In addition we declare and find that it is necessary to fund emergency relief efforts to support Monroe County residents who are facing difficulty as a result of the Public Health Emergency in Indiana and the outbreak of COVID-19.

Section 2. Appropriation Authorized

Under the authority of state law, including but not limited to the provisions referenced above in Section 1, the Commissioners authorize Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to be used for COVID-19 relief. The Funds may be disbursed from the Rainy Day Fund or through the infrastructure of the Sophia Travis Community Service Grant Funding. The Funds shall be provided to United Way of Monroe County, which provides county-wide relief through the efforts of multiple social service agencies.

Section 3. Relaxation of Procedures and Formalities; Authority Delegated by the Council and Commissioners to their Presidents

Procedures and Formalities otherwise required by Indiana State law are hereby waived, due to the Governor’s Public Health Emergency and Indiana Code 10-14-3-17. It is the intention of the Commissioners and Council that Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) immediately be directed to United Way of Monroe County and Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) immediately be directed to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, upon passage of this Ordinance. The Commissioners may release additional funding as may be deemed appropriate and necessary.

Section 4. As the legislative body, the Commissioners also wish to relax enforcement of zoning ordinances and to waive building code requirements adopted through the Monroe County Code, but only to the extent necessary to ensure that provisions of the Monroe County Code do not block the humanitarian efforts of social service agencies to work with various coalitions in order to secure basic necessities including, without limitation, food, shelter, clothing, and restroom facilities (“Necessities”) for Monroe County residents and those found residing in Monroe County during the COVID-19 outbreak and as long as a Public Health Emergency exists and is declared statewide or in Monroe County. Deviations from the building and zoning codes shall be the minimum deviations necessary to promote public health and safety and provide the Necessities.

Section 5. Effective Date and Severability

This Ordinance takes effect upon passage by both the Commissioners and the Council. Any subsequent legal or administrative action which may be necessary for the furtherance of this Ordinance is hereby authorized. Should any provision of this Ordinance be found unenforceable or invalid, the remaining portions remain in effect.

Approved this 18 day of March, 2020, by the Board of Commissioners of Monroe County, Indiana.

"AYES"

"NAYS"



Julie Thomas, President

Julie Thomas, President



Lee Jones, Vice President

Lee Jones, Vice President

Penny Githens, Member

Penny Githens, Member

ATTEST: Catherine Smith Catherine Smith, Auditor