

RESOLUTION NO. 20- 16,184

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HUNT COUNTY, TEXAS, GRANTING AID TO DISASTER VICTIMS WHO HAVE CONTRACTED COVID-19:**

**WHEREAS**, beginning in December 2019, a novel coronavirus, now designated SARS-CoV2 which causes the disease COVID-19, has spread through the world and has now been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization; and

**WHEREAS**, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas issued a disaster proclamation on March 13, 2020, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) poses an imminent threat of disaster for all counties in the State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, President Trump acknowledged the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic, releasing strict new guidelines to limit people's interactions, including that Americans should avoid groups of more than 10 people; and

**WHEREAS**, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath, and in some cases, the virus causes death. COVID-19 is easily transmitted through person to person contact, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety.

**WHEREAS**, the Hunt County Commissioners Court declared a state of emergency on March 16, 2020, and County Judge Stovall issued an Order on that same day; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020 County Judge Stovall and the Hunt County Commissioners Court amended the County's Disaster Resolution and included an order that all resident of Hunt County shelter in place of their residence. On April 3, 2020, the Commissioners Court approved a similar Resolution, extending the shelter in place order through April 17, 2020, and on April 14, 2020 the Commissioners Court approved another similar Resolution, further extending the shelter in place order through April 30, 2020;; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2020, Governor Abbott extended his order relating to continuity of essential services and activities during the COVID-19 disaster (Executive Order GA-14) until at least April 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the commissioner of the Texas Department of State and Health Services (DSHS), Dr. John Hellerstedt, has determined COVID-19 represents a public health disaster within the meaning of Chapter 81 of the Texas Health and Safety Code; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of Hunt County have contracted COVID-19 which have resulted in quarantine, hospitalization, and in some cases even death; and

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at 11:46 o'clock 22 M

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JENNIFER LINDENZWERS  
County Clerk, Hunt County, TX Page 1 of 3  
By Jennifer Lindenzwers

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Hunt County who have contracted COVID-19 and members of their immediate household have been financially impacted by the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, financial assistance from other sources, including this state and the federal government, is unavailable or inadequate for COVID-19 victims of Hunt County and their immediate members of their household; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Hunt County has implemented policies and procedures (Exhibit A, attached) to ensure that funds granted under this resolution are used for the public purpose of providing disaster relief for emergency food, shelter, transportation, or other items or services necessary for public health and safety to victims of COVID-19 and members of their immediate household who are adversely affected by the disaster;

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners Court of Hunt County wishes to grant aid to disaster victims under Section 130.910 of the Local Government Code, to be administered through Hunt County Shared Ministries, to ensure emergency expenses for essential needs of COVID-19 victims and members of their immediate household.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HUNT COUNTY, TEXAS:**

**SECTION 1: Findings Incorporated.** The findings recited above are incorporated as if fully set forth in the body of this Resolution.

**SECTION 2: Ratification.** The Commissioners Court of Hunt County hereby finds that financial assistance from state and federal government is unavailable or inadequate for victims who have contracted COVID-19. To provide for emergency food, shelter, transportation, or other items or services necessary for public health and safety, the Commissioners Court will provide money from the general fund to be administered through Hunt County Shared Ministries for emergency expenses of rent, monthly mortgage payments, utilities, and food for residents of Hunt County who have contracted COVID-19 and their immediate members of their household who have been negatively affected.

**SECTION 3: Ending Date.** This Resolution shall remain in effect until December 31, 2020.

**SECTION 4: Effective Dates.** This Resolution shall be in force and effect immediately upon final passage until the ending date, and it is so resolved.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HUNT COUNTY,  
TEXAS** on this the 28th day of April 2020.

  
County Judge

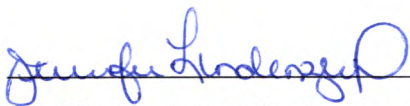
  
Precinct 1 Commissioner

  
Precinct 2 Commissioner

  
Precinct 3 Commissioner

  
Precinct 4 Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Jennifer Lindenzweig, County Clerk



# Exhibit A

## **AID TO DISASTER VICTIMS – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **Policies**

1. It is the policy of Hunt County to provide the services necessary for public health and safety. To provide for the public health and safety the Commissioners Court of Hunt County has issued a shelter in place order, which limits residents to provide for basic needs.
2. Victims of COVID-19, and members of their immediate household are especially limited in their ability to provide for basic needs as they are quarantined and sometimes hospitalized.
3. Hunt County Commissioners Court recognizes that to protect public health it must encourage isolation of victims and members of their household for extended periods of time. Mandatory isolation creates a severe financial hardship for said victims, many of who cannot meet their basic needs even with other financial support.
4. For the public good and to assist Victims of COVID-19, Hunt County Commissioners Court has set aside an initial \$25,000 from the general fund to be administered through Hunt County Shared Ministries for emergency expenses of rent, monthly mortgage payments, utilities, and food for residents of Hunt County who have contracted COVID-19 and their immediate members of their household who have been negatively affected. The monies shall be transferred to Hunt County Shared Ministries in tranches of \$5,000 as approved in writing by the Hunt County Judge upon written request by Hunt County Shared Ministries. The Commissioners Court may increase the amount from the general fund from time to time as required. Any such increase in the amount of monies paid shall be approved by a majority vote of the Commissioners Court at a regular, special or emergency meeting.
5. It is also the policy of the Hunt County Commissioners Court to follow federal law by protecting the identity of said victims and members of their household who may qualify for this relief.

### **Procedures**

1. Money provided under this Resolution will be administered through Hunt County Shared Ministries. All requests and submissions shall be to the Hunt County Shared Ministries. Hunt County Shared Ministries shall provide to the Commissioners Court of Hunt County a monthly and a final accounting of the program and funds distributed.
2. For protection of healthcare information, residents who qualify for aid under this resolution, will be issued a passcode from the Hunt County Health Department to verify eligibility with Hunt County Shared Ministries.

3. To determine the amount of monthly aid to be distributed per household, eligible residents shall submit bills for rent/mortgage payment and utilities. Eligible residents shall also provide the number of members in the household subject to quarantine for the purpose of determining any monthly stipend for food. The maximum limit of aid per affected person shall not exceed \$2,000.