

Amendment 2 to CB 120018

Sponsor: Councilmember Mosqueda on behalf of Councilmember Pedersen

Add internet services as eligible cost to be funded

Amend subsection 3.A to CB 120018 as follows:

Section 3. Of the appropriations in items 2.1 and 2.2 of this ordinance,

A. \$6,200,000 from item 2.1 will be appropriated to community based agencies that have an established track record of serving communities that 1) have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; and, 2) have a disproportionate need for rental assistance; and that have experience in managing rent assistance and/or homeless prevention dollars particularly during the current COVID-19 public health emergency for the purposes of rent assistance and other housing related costs including internet services, homelessness prevention services, and associated administration costs, and may be spent for no other purpose.

Effect: This amendment would add “internet services” as an eligible cost that could be funded with rental assistance funding allocated by Community Based Organizations (CBO’s). CBO’s will work directly with clients to determine need for such assistance relative to the need for rental assistance and will, as appropriate, make payments to internet providers. A formal U.S Department of Treasury document indicates that internet services costs are eligible for coverage with the rental assistance funding but recognizes this could reduce the amount of funds available for rental assistance and therefore directs grantees to adopt policies that govern in what circumstances covering this cost would be appropriate. OH would develop program guidelines to address this requirement for such policies if this amendment is adopted.