



Collier County Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CollierCARES Offers \$15M for One-Time Payments of Childcare, Electricity, Mortgage and Rent *Application Portal Opens August 17*

Full-time Collier County residents behind on certain basic living payments due to the economic challenges presented by COVID-19 may qualify for one-time emergency assistance through the county's **CollierCARES Individual Assistance** program. **Applications for childcare, electricity, mortgage and rent assistance open on Monday, August 17 at 8 a.m., and close on Monday, August 31 at noon.** Qualified applicants must apply online at www.CollierFLCARES.com. With **3 out of 10** households (30%) in Collier County living in, or one emergency away from poverty, the pandemic has worsened an already difficult situation for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) individuals and families. *

“We’re pleased to collaborate with United Way of Collier and the Keys to provide our residents with the support they need to weather this pandemic,” said Sean Callahan, executive director of corporate business operations in Collier County. “I thank the Board of County Commissioners for expediting this process so we can help our community as quickly as possible.”

For this short-term program, residents may receive one-time payments up to \$11,250 per household. The limit for housing and utility assistance is \$10,000 per household. Childcare assistance has a separate maximum award of \$1,250. Payment of other utilities that are a required term of the lease or rental agreement such as water, sewer and trash may be eligible, pending review of the lease/rental terms. Disbursements will be made directly to the childcare provider, mortgage company, power company, and/or property owner/landlord. Past due bills must have accumulated as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic and must be documented.

Income qualification mirrors the CARES Act Economic Impact Payment guidelines: individuals with incomes up to \$75,000 and households up to \$150,000. Applicants must prove loss of employment or reduced hours due to COVID-19 and must verify Collier County residency. Please see the online application for complete information on this and other CollierCARES funding programs.

Collier County has partnered with the United Way of Collier and the Keys to accept applications for emergency assistance to individuals and families in Collier affected by COVID-19. Collier County will distribute \$15M in federal funds through the CollierCARES Individual and Family Assistance Program. The county has been collaborating with the United Way to provide financial assistance to individuals and families during the pandemic since mid-March.

CollierCARES applications will become available for small businesses to provide grants for relaunching and rehiring on Monday, August 31 at 8 a.m., and will close on September 14 at noon. Personal protection equipment kits are an option, while completing the application.

More information is available at www.CollierFLCARES.com. Those needing help to apply online can go to any Collier County Library branch for assistance from library staff. Interested persons will also be able to sign up for alerts at the applications page at www.CollierFLCARES.com as application portals open and as the deadline approaches. For general information about the CollierCARES program, call (239) 252-8999 or dial 311 within Collier County.

* [United Way Alice Report](#)