



MEDIA RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

City of Richmond grants \$600,000 to the Richmond Rapid Response Fund

The City of Richmond allocated \$600,000 to the Richmond Rapid Response Fund (R3F) – a fiscally sponsored project of the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund – during the City Council meeting on February 15, 2022. The funds are a portion of the City of Richmond’s American Rescue Plan Act dollars and will help R3F assist those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic within the city of Richmond.

These monies will help the R3F provide financial disbursements to both Richmond residents and/or organizations, as well as rental assistance, and support for those experiencing homelessness. The fund is also currently in the process of developing a Guaranteed Income Pilot model with the assistance of a Goldman School of Public Policy consultant and a housing pilot in tandem with the City of Richmond.

“We stay proximate and rooted in our community, adaptive and attuned to conditions that harm and heal our BIPOC students, families, and communities; stewarding and asserting reparative and restorative policies, investments, and systems,” said Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, the program coordinator for the RYSE Center, a Core Partner with R3F, regarding R3F’s principles and practice.

Since the R3F was established, it has provided 766 financial disbursements to families, and rent relief to 68 households. R3F has developed a unique approach to responding to the Richmond community’s needs with an emerging community-centric fund.

“The R3F seeks to continue to respond to the current and ongoing housing crisis by procuring and distributing resources to secure and stabilize housing and shelter for individuals and families,” said Jessica Travenia, the R3F’s Program Officer. “We are committed to honoring the fortitude and resilience of our communities by repairing the harms that impact them.”

The Richmond Rapid Response Fund was established the first week of the shelter-at-home order due to COVID-19. Its inception came from a group of community stakeholders with the intention of supporting Richmond residents with basic needs and rental assistance during the pandemic. The R3F is fiscally-sponsored by the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund. You can find more information at www.richmondresponsefund.org.

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