

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing to follow-up on item B.2 to provide some additional context to the discussions I have had with city staff regarding funding. We have been pleased to assist both the County of Santa Barbara, its partner cities, and the City of Goleta with the existing Emergency Rental Assistance program. We hear the anxious phone calls of residents who are struggling to afford rent due to the impacts of the pandemic. Our staff have been especially critical in assisting Spanish speakers who needed assistance navigating the online application. Applicants also have the opportunity to receive legal assistance as well. This assistance is ongoing and we strongly support the City's efforts to continue emergency rental assistance.

Our FY 20-21 funding situation has been in regular flux due to the impact of COVID-19. My understanding is that this new round of CDBG emergency funding must be spent quickly. While we are so grateful to be considered for additional funding for legal services, it became clear after further review that the new funds would require a new round of hiring with only one-time funds, and it is uncertain whether we could meet the deliverables of the program in the expedited time frame proposed. We also have some recent vacancies in North County which require some time and attention. I have no doubt that other organizations can quickly and efficiently use the funds to provide critical services to Goleta residents.

We continue to provide legal assistance to low-income Goleta residents with other funding. Information about our current services is available on our website: <https://www.lafsb.org/>. We expect to have need for financial support in future FY years, especially as the full impacts of the pandemic become known. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that the most vulnerable Goleta residents receive critical food, shelter, and other assistance during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

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