

Memorandum



Date: January 12, 2021

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(2)
February 2, 2021

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Subject: Report on the Public Housing Nutritional Assistance Program – Directive 200926

The Public Housing Nutritional Assistance Program was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on May 19, 2020. This food program was part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) funds from the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that was included in Public Housing and Community Development Department’s substantial amendment to its Fiscal Year 2013-2017 Consolidated Plan and the FY 2019 Action Plan. At this meeting, the Board voted unanimously to bifurcate agenda item 14A1, to allow separation of the Public Service award of \$2,770,499.00 from the Economic Development portion identified in Exhibit 1.

This report was prepared by the Public Housing and Community Development Department in response to the Resolution.

Public housing families are a vulnerable population in our community with households consisting of extremely low-income families that earn no more than 30 percent of area media income. For a public housing family of four, the annual adjusted income limit is \$25,750, per HUD guidelines.

Public housing residents received critically needed food assistance this summer through the distribution of grocery gift cards redeemable at local selected grocery stores throughout Miami-Dade County. On June 6, 2020, the head of household of each family was notified by letter to pick up their grocery gift cards at the management office. The value of the gift cards was based on an allotment of \$146 per person/per month for a two-month period, or a total of \$292 per person (in alignment with the SNAP program). The total cost of the food assistance program was \$2,301,544 and provided meals for 7,882 Miami-Dade County residents. The grocery gift cards were redeemable at Southeastern Grocers, which includes Winn-Dixie, Fresco y Más, BI-LO and Harveys Supermarket stores throughout Miami-Dade County. Similar to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), these cards prohibited the purchase of items such as tobacco or lottery products. PHCD issued a news release regarding the program on June 23, 2020.

Current Status: Completed

In accordance with Ordinance No. 14-65, this memorandum will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. If additional information is needed, please contact Michael Liu, Director, Public Housing and Community Development Department, at 786-469-4106.

c: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, Successor County Attorney
Michael Liu, Director, Public Housing and Community Development
Melissa Adames, Director, Clerk of the Board
Jennifer Moon, Chief, Office of Policy and Budgetary Affairs
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator