# 2020-2021
CARES Report

What is CARES?

CARES...

- stands for the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Economic Security" Act

- was a $2 trillion dollar federal economic relief package passed by Congress on March 27th, 2020

- aimed to protect people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19

Funding Overview

- Chapel Hill received $1.5M from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), a part of CARES

- CRF provided financial resources to state, local and tribal governments to help navigate COVID-19

- The Town allocated funds to a variety of eligible categories as shown in the chart

Public Info. 10%

Economic Support 18%

Housing 45%

Health 13%

Human Services 14%
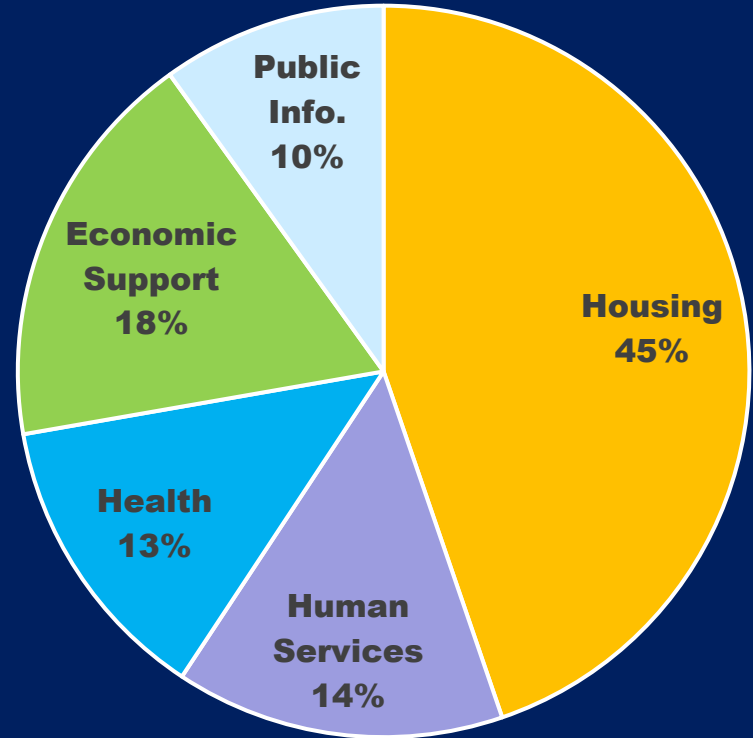
Housing

Emergency Housing Assistance

Through a partnership with Orange County, **578** Chapel Hill households earning less than 80% of the area median income received emergency housing assistance for rental and utility bills.

Lead: Office of Housing & Community
Investment: $674,000

Rapid Rehousing Program

15 Chapel Hill residents experiencing homelessness received direct housing assistance through a partnership with the Orange County's Rapid Rehousing program. CARES funds were used to support additional case worker positions and hours.

Lead: Office of Housing & Community Investment: $25,000

Human Services

Food Distribution Coordination

Each week from March 25th through December 31st, 2020, **270** households and over **1,000** individuals received food. This totaled more than **10,638** households and **45,988** individual meals.

Lead: Office of Housing & Community Investment: $23,300

Neighborhood Support Circles

In partnership with the Refugee Community Partnership, the Town supported **10** neighborhood-based scholastic and childcare support programs for low-income families with children. The program served families from Spanish, Burmese, Karen, Chin, Swahili/Kinyarwanda and English speaking communities.

Lead: Office of Housing & Community Investment: $74,000

Scholastic Support Center Program

Up to **100** children per week participated in the YMCA's Scholastic Support Center, a program that provides supervised support for virtual school and enrichment activities for students in grades K-8. The Town hosted two program sites and supported the participation of **10** children of low-income families.

Leads: Parks & Rec, Housing & Community Investment: $30,000

Library Laptop Lending Program

With the Library closed to the public, the Town purchased **36** Chromebooks to provide public computing for adults without sufficient computer access at home. The program supports job seekers, low-income residents, and historically marginalized populations, with service information provided in **5** languages.

Lead: Library
Investment: $20,500

source: wikipedia

IFC Shelter Staffing Support

The Town provided financial support which helped the Interfaith Council for Social Service (IFC) build the staff capacity needed to **accommodate more residents** who were experiencing homelessness on cold winter nights in late 2020.

Lead: Office of Housing & Community Investment: $30,000

Police Crisis Unit Software Upgrade

To better serve the community under an altered work environment resulting from COVID restrictions and other impacts, the Town acquired new crisis management software that supports and **enhances the work** of the Police Department's Crisis Unit.

Leads: Police, Technology Solutions
Investment: $23,600

Increased Hours for Library Circulator

The Chapel Hill Library began a pilot project to bring books and other library materials to **neighborhoods** like the Tar Heel Mobile Home Park and Phoenix Place. CARES funding supported **6** additional bookmobile days between October and November of 2020.

Lead: Library
Investment: $2,100

Enhanced Public Internet Access

To help expand public internet access to support activities like distance learning and teleworking, the Town enhanced public Wi-Fi at **10** public facilities. In partnership with Orange County, the Town also provided **mobile hotspots** for residents experiencing homelessness.

Lead: Technology Solutions
Investment: $3,500

Sanitation Services for Public Spaces

To help maintain public health and safety for residents experiencing homelessness, the Town provided regular sanitation services for the top level of the Wallace Deck.

Lead: Parking Services
Investment: $14,800

Translation of Vital Documents

The Town translated **20** key Covid-era communications into Chapel Hill's **4** primary non-English languages – Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Burmese and Karen.

Leads: Office of Housing & Community, Library
Investment: $5,500

Economic Support

Small Business Grants

In partnership with the Chapel Hill Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, the Town is issued **80** grants of up to $1,000 to small businesses to support compliance with public health requirements. The grant initiative was part of the Chamber's *Safer Commerce* program.

Lead: Office of Economic Development
Investment: $80,000

Economic Recovery Plan

Led by a local economic advisory committee, the Town created and adopted an **Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan**. The plan provides a roadmap to help our local economy rebound from COVID-19 and drive positive change moving forward.

Lead: Office of Economic Development
Investment: $99,300
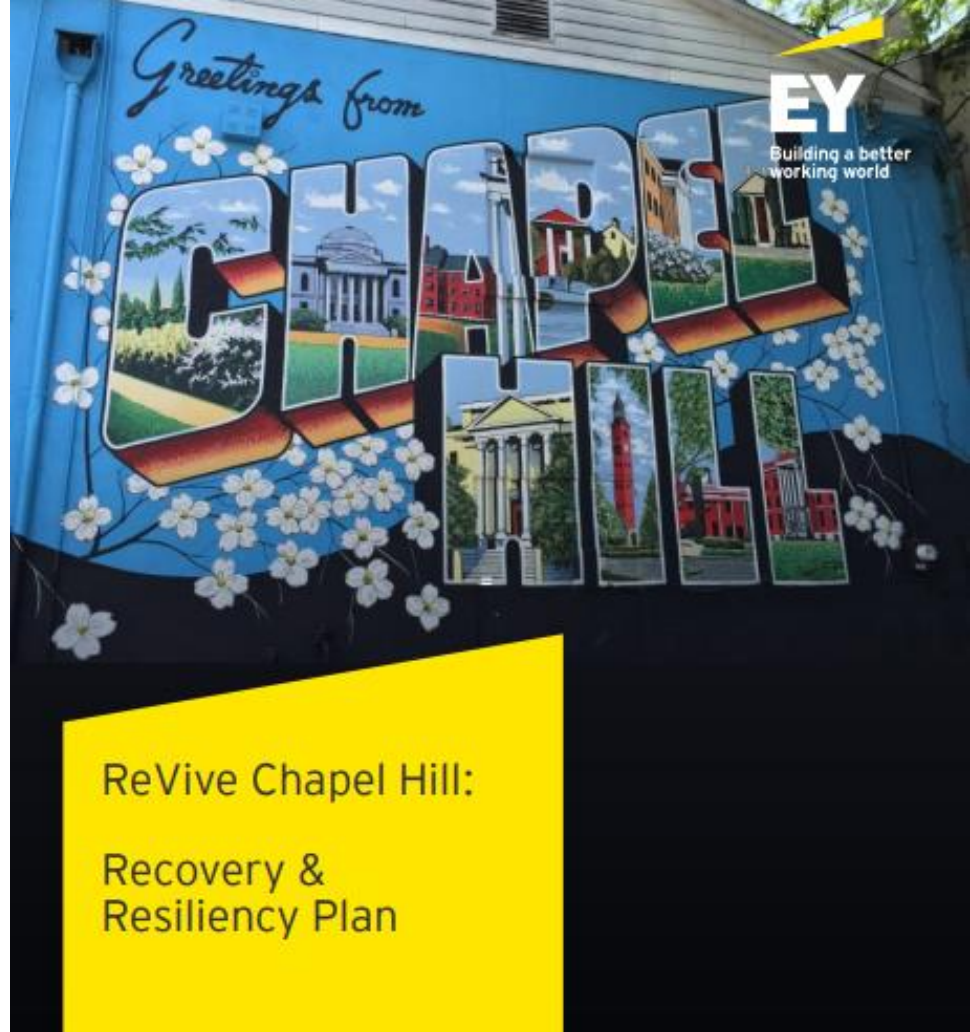
Multi-use Path on Franklin Street

The Town installed more than **3,000** feet of barriers along Franklin Street between Robertson Lane and Graham Street to provide additional space for businesses to offer and expand outdoor dining while also providing **safe and socially-distanced walkways** for pedestrians.

Leads: Econ. Development, Public Works, Planning
Investment: $50,000

Long-Term Recovery Plan

Led by Orange County, the Town participated in the creation of a **Long-Term Recovery and Transformation Plan**. The plan serves as a strategy document to guide county-wide recovery from the impacts of the pandemic and to help our larger community move ahead in a number of vital areas.

Lead: Multiple Departments
Investment: $49,000

Moving **Orange County** Forward

ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Long-Term Recovery
Moving Orange County Forward

Learn More

Health

Temporary Multi-use Paths

The Town installed more than **8,000** feet of temporary multi-use paths along multiple Town streets and roads to provide additional space for residents to move safely with physical distancing.

Leads: Planning, Police
Investment: $300

Ventilation System Improvements

The Town installed fans, air quality monitors, dehumidifiers, and portable air cleaners with HEPA filters to manage and help supplement other HVAC changes all designed to **increase ventilation** in Town facilities – particularly areas with a higher density of essential staff.

Leads: Public Works
Investment: $138,400

Uniform Washing at Fire Stations

The Fire Department installed a washer and dryer at **3** Fire Stations, which helped frontline and emergency response staff clean PPE and uniforms throughout their shifts.

Leads: Fire
Investment: $7,100

Socially-Distanced Work Areas

To help create a safer working environment with proper social distancing for both employees and residents, the Town added a **wall divider** to the Development Services area at Town Hall and also transformed a utility area into an **office space** at the Homestead Aquatic Center.

Leads: Public Works, Inspections, Parks & Rec
Investment: $14,200

90-Day Supply of PPE

Anticipating the need for additional personal protective equipment (PPE) like hand sanitizer, masks and other items, the Town purchased a **3-month supply** to help support safe operations in the spring of 2021.

Lead: Emergency Operations Center
Investment: $36,200

Safer Outdoor Services

To minimize the risk of infection, several Town departments have begun providing some **outdoor services**. To support this safety measure, the Town purchased pop-up tents, folding tables and chairs, and A-frame signs. This equipment has helped with food distribution, drive-up flu shot clinics, and public health signage along greenways.

Leads: Multiple departments
Investment: $2,200
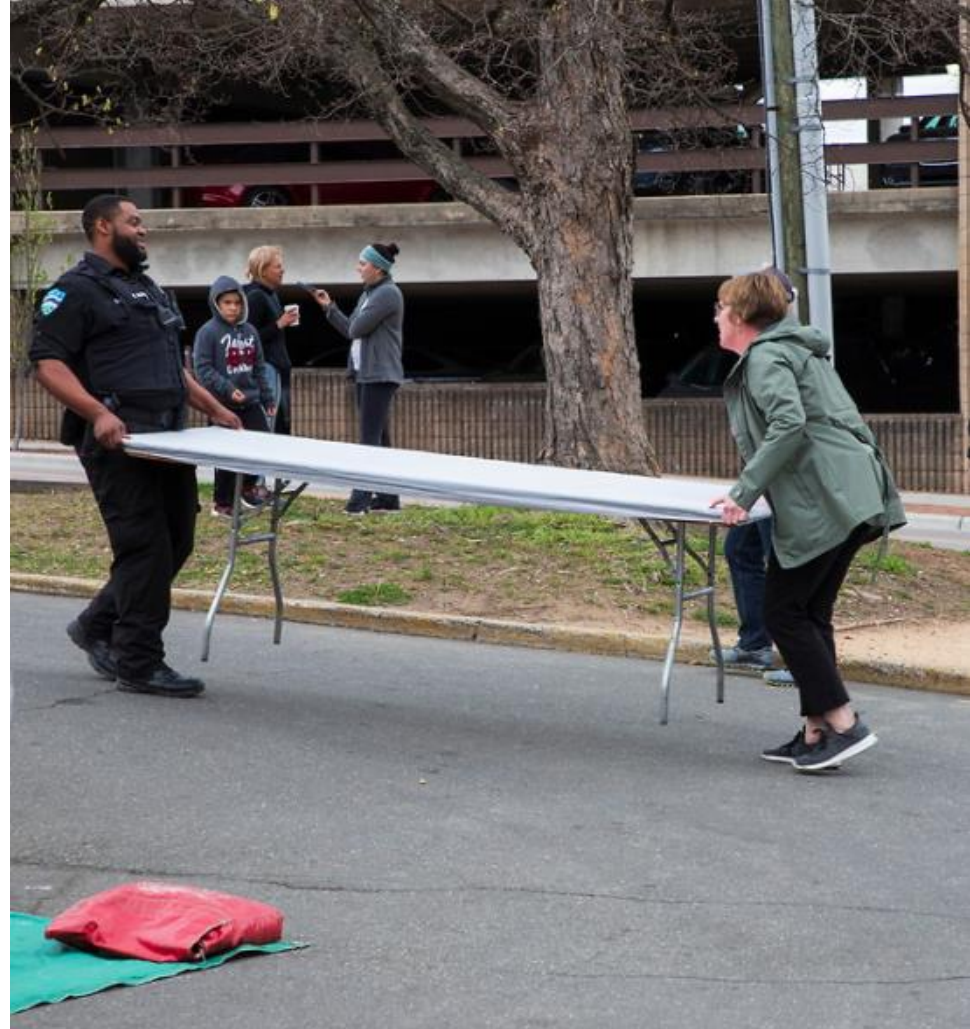
Socially Distanced Living Quarters

To reduce the risk of virus transmission and **increase the safety of 24-hour living quarters**, the Town renovated internal spaces at Fire Station #1 to replace bunk rooms with socially-distanced sleeping areas.

*Lead: Fire*
Investment: $4,000

Public Information & Communications

Dashboards for COVID Operations

The Town developed a digital **dashboard** to support emergency operations and COVID-19 response. The tool was also designed to help the Town manage and respond to **multiple emergency events** at the same time (e.g., COVID + severe weather).

Leads: Emergency Management, Tech. Solutions
Investment: $32,000
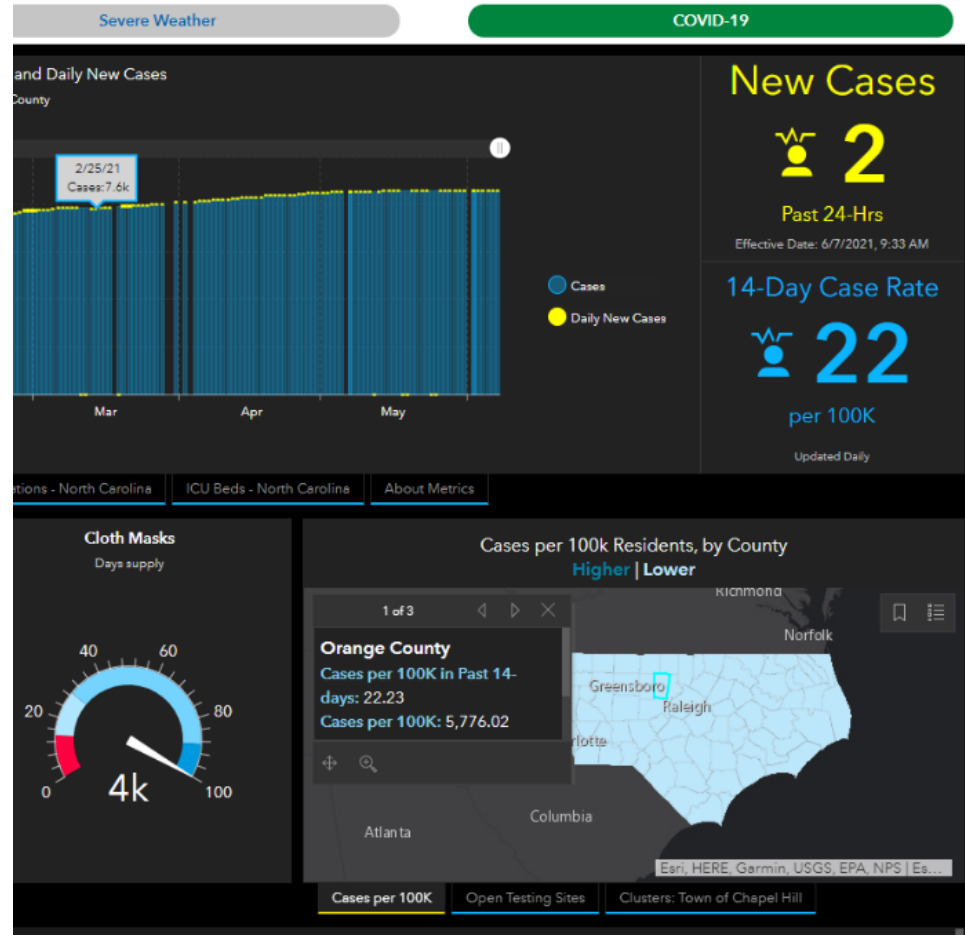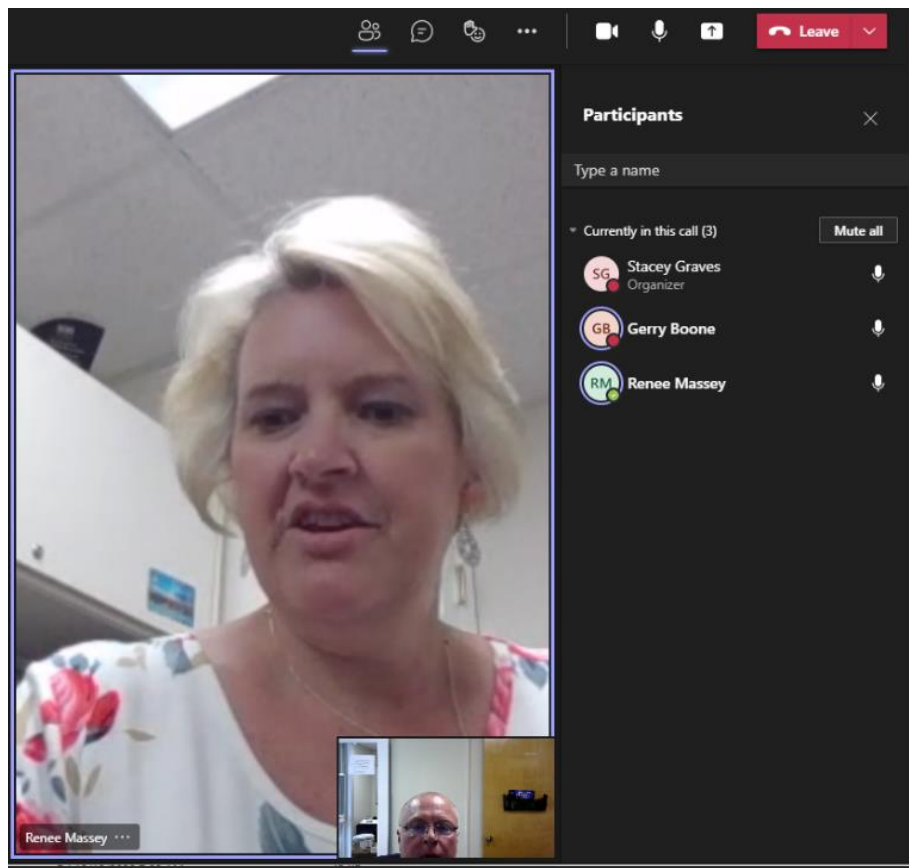
Virtual Meeting Technology

The Town installed virtual meeting technology at all **5** Fire Stations to help improve socially distant **digital communications** between Fire and other Town departments, including with the Town's remote workforce.

Leads: Fire, Technology Solutions
Investment: $3,900

Enhanced Cybersecurity

The Town strengthened its **cybersecurity protections** against ever evolving threats and the added vulnerabilities of an increased remote workforce. These efforts help to maintain and provide **more safeguards** against attacks and the protection of sensitive data and other important information.

Leads: Technology Solutions, Police
Investment: $119,300

What's Next?

- The pandemic brought to light and worsened many of the challenges we face in Chapel Hill, even those within our own organization.

- Fortunately, we were able to **respond** by pulling together with a number of key community partners.

- We will build on this work and our partnerships as we continue to **recover** from the impacts of COVID-19.