

May 1, 2020

Wake County Board of Commissioners  
PO Box 550  
Raleigh, NC 27602

RE: Request for Funding for Emergency Rental Assistance

Dear Commissioners,

The Board of County Commissioners has shown exceptional leadership during the current crisis, and we commend you for your continued leadership during this difficult time. As we move to the next phase of this crisis, we trust you will make the necessary decisions to keep our residents safe and help our communities recover and thrive.

As you know, the pandemic has impacted every aspect of our society, but one of the hardest hit segments of our community are our renters, many of whom find themselves in difficult financial positions as a result of closures that are negatively affecting the economy. Given these financial hardships, many renters are unable to pay their rent and other basic necessities. We believe local government is uniquely positioned to step in and help provide direct rental assistance which will help to keep those adversely affected in their homes and in their communities.

Specifically, we would ask that the Board of Commissioners allocate five million dollars to supplement the budget of Wake Prevent! as a starting point to help renters with their May rent bills. The Wake Prevent! program has been hugely successful in helping renters avoid eviction and stay in their homes. We are certain with this additional funding, the program can help thousands more during the current crisis. It is our understanding there are federal dollars available for such programming. We urge you to utilize this short-term funding stream for this program, which will provide a massive boost for some of our most vulnerable residents.

As you continue working to protect Wake County residents, we hope you will consider our suggestion to supplement funding for Wake Prevent! In doing so, you have an opportunity to continue the commitment you have made to fighting for affordable housing and can help thousands of Wake County residents to weather the current crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jeff Murison, Executive Director  
**Blue Ridge Corridor Alliance**  
**Hillsborough Street Community Service Corporation**

Teri Fountain, 2020 President  
**REALTOR Foundation of Wake County**

Bill Ahern, President & CEO  
**Habitat for Humanity of Wake County**

Kelli Lea, 2020 President  
**Triangle Apartment Association**

Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista, Steering Team  
**ONE Wake**

Jacob Rogers, CEO  
**Triangle Community Coalition**

Lewis Grubbs, 2020 President  
**Raleigh Regional Association of REALTORS®**

Heather Keefe, Executive Director  
**WakeUP Wake County**

David Smoot, Chairperson  
**Raleigh/Wake Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness**