



# Leon County

## Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
(850) 606-5302 [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov)

### YOUR TURN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2020**

**CONTACT: Mathieu Cavell**

Community and Media Relations  
(850) 606-5300

### **County Enhances Leon CARES to Provide Millions to Those in Need**

Since the first reported COVID-19 case in Florida seven months ago, times have been tough for families, businesses, frontline healthcare workers, and so many more. But in tough times, you see the things people are made of: delivering groceries to the front door of an elderly neighbor, changing how a business delivers service, and wearing a mask to keep everyone safe. For Leon County, in response to the pandemic, we have led our most comprehensive and coordinated emergency management response efforts ever to protect lives and livelihoods. The County's Emergency Operations Center has been activated for more than 200 consecutive days in support of public health efforts, delivering more than a million pieces of PPE, protecting the vulnerable, and developing healthcare surge plans.

This has been a time that has challenged people and organizations everywhere, and we have heard from families and business owners about how that uncertainty has affected them and put them behind on critical bills. That's why last month Leon County launched the Leon CARES program with more than \$50 million in federal funds to increase countywide testing and contact tracing, fund community programs that address food insecurity, childcare, mental health, homelessness, and provide direct financial assistance to those impacted most by the virus. To date, our County has received more than 5,000 applications for assistance and has awarded \$4.2 million to over a thousand households, local businesses and agencies – and we are only getting started.

Because the federal funds must be spent by December 30, the County initially launched Leon CARES to help those most impacted by the virus. Now, with those most in need having applied, on September 29 the Leon County Board of County Commissioners approved enhancing and expanding the eligibility to serve and assist even more people. In short, Leon County increased the amounts of assistance to individuals, businesses, and nonprofits, while also expediting payments to individuals through Leon CARES' easy application process. Following the Board's actions on Tuesday, individuals will be eligible for up to \$5,000 and small businesses and nonprofits may receive up to \$57,500 and \$37,500 respectively. For households, all of these enhancements ensure the County will continue to provide grants to support our low-income citizens to stay in their homes and pay their utility bills, to assist human services agencies meet increased demands related to COVID-19, and provide critical economic relief to the local business community.

I am proud of the County's work thus far to protect public health and safety and provide much needed assistance to our community's families and businesses. I am also proud of our many local businesses and nonprofits who have hustled to make ends meet and changed how they provide services, all to keep their employees paid and the doors open. But there is still so much more work which will continue to ensure we respond and recover from this pandemic and emerge even stronger as a community. Please visit [www.LeonCountyCARES.com](http://www.LeonCountyCARES.com) today to find our expanded programs and eligibility. Applying is easy and people are standing by to assist and to show that now more than ever, Leon CARES!

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Vince Long became County Administrator on July 1, 2011, and has worked for Leon County since 1995. He can be reached at (850) 606-5300 or LongV@LeonCountyFL.gov.

###