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MORE THAN 50 CITIES AND COUNTIES ARE SET TO OFFER ONE-ON-ONE, PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL COUNSELING OR FINANCIAL NAVIGATION SERVICES TO BUILD RESIDENT FINANCIAL STABILITY DURING COVID-19

The CFE Fund Is Supporting 31 Cities in Launching New Financial Navigator Program Serving over 35,000 Residents, and 20 Localities in Pivoting Financial Empowerment Center Services to Provide Remote Financial Assistance to Residents

New York, NY, August 12, 2020 - National nonprofit organization the [Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund](#) (CFE Fund), in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, Citi Foundation, JPMorgan Chase & Co., and the Wells Fargo Foundation, announced today that more than 50 city and county partner governments across the country are set to offer financial counseling and financial navigation services for their local residents in need. As part of this effort, the CFE Fund announced the selection of 31 city and county governments to launch a new Financial Navigator initiative, which will provide their residents one-on-one remote sessions to help navigate the financial impact of COVID-19 through access to local, state, and federal resources. In addition, the CFE Fund announced an expansion of its [Financial Empowerment Center \(FEC\)](#) initiative, which offers professional, data-driven one-on-one financial counseling as a public service, funding additional counselors in FEC partner cities, as well as pivoting its national FEC infrastructure to accommodate remote services. These new and enhanced financial navigation and counseling services come in the face of increasing individual and family, with some FEC cities already experiencing as much as a 40% increase in demand for financial counseling services.

FINANCIAL NAVIGATORS

The new [Financial Navigators](#) program is designed to help residents deal with the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing remote assistance in navigating critical financial issues and making referrals to other social services and resources. Trained Financial Navigators will provide structured guidance over the phone that will help people strategize around



supports for disruptions to their income and other financial concerns. They will help residents triage financial issues, identify immediate action steps, and make referrals to other services.

“We’re grateful to our many partners rising to the enormous challenge of responding to the waves of demand for financial counseling and navigation from people across the country impacted economically by COVID-19,” said **Jonathan Mintz, CFE Fund President and CEO**.

“Increasingly, local leaders are deploying financial empowerment efforts as a core part of their front-line COVID-19 response. We particularly want to thank Bloomberg Philanthropies, Citi Foundation, JPMorgan Chase & Co., and the Wells Fargo Foundation for making this possible.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic is not just an unprecedented public health crisis that has cost over 160,000 Americans their lives – it’s also an unprecedented economic crisis that has left millions devastated financially, with many questioning how they’re going to provide the next meal for their families,” said **Patricia E. Harris, CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies**. “We’re glad to support the CFE Fund in their work to reduce the income inequality that has made the impact of this crisis far worse, and to provide people across the country with the tools and skills they need to survive this pandemic – and be more financially stable once it’s over.”

“Sound financial health is a critical component of addressing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on low-income and diverse communities in the U.S.,” said **Sarah Bainton Kahn, VP of Global Philanthropy, JPMorgan Chase & Co.** “We are pleased to collaborate with the CFE Fund to help people in the US access the tools and services they need to build resiliency and advance their financial health.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound economic repercussions on individuals across the U.S.,” said **Brandee McHale, Head of Citi Community Investing and Development and President of the Citi Foundation**. “Partnering with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund to expand vital financial tools and services will help our local communities navigate the financial impacts of the pandemic and aid in our collective economic recovery.”

“The pandemic has clearly heightened awareness around the financial hardships that so many people were already facing in the U.S. and deep disparities that exist in society,” said **Darlene Goins, head of financial health philanthropy with the Wells Fargo Foundation**. “We applaud the CFE Fund for bringing together local governments, philanthropists, and financial services and other industries to reimagine solutions that can help improve financial stability and resiliency for individuals and families, particularly during this economic crisis.”



Financial Navigator partners each receive \$80,000 in grant funding, technical assistance, and training to launch a new public Financial Navigators program. Financial Navigator services will be delivered over the phone; Navigators will help clients address their financial concerns ranging from prioritizing payments to negotiating with creditors to enrollment into benefits programs. Services will be free for all residents. Financial Navigator grantees include: Albuquerque, NM; Anchorage, AK; Baltimore County, MD; Birmingham, AL; Boston, MA; Brownsville, TX; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Columbus, OH; Dallas, TX; City of Fremont/Alameda County, CA; Gaithersburg, MD; Glynn County, GA; Hartford, CT; Hawai'i County, HI; Jacksonville, FL; Little Rock, AR; Los Angeles County, CA; Louisville, KY; Madison, WI; Milwaukee, WI; Mount Vernon, NY; Pueblo, CO; Richmond, VA; Riverside County, CA; Tempe, AZ; Topeka, KS; Tulsa, OK; Waco, TX; Washington, DC; and Washtenaw County, MI.

Addressing the coming launch of Albuquerque's Financial Navigator Program with local nonprofits, including Prosperity Works, **City of Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller** stated, "COVID-19 is creating big challenges for our community, from job and insurance losses to housing. The CFE Fund is stepping up at the perfect time. With unemployment help and federal eviction protections expiring soon, we need new collaborations like this to connect our residents with critical services."

"The CFE Fund is helping us provide a critical service at a critical time," said **Municipality of Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz**. "The benefits of establishing financial navigation will long outlive the current crisis."

"Families deserve to know government will be there for them, especially in times of crisis. Throughout this pandemic, families in Baltimore County and across the country have faced unprecedented financial challenges – which is why our team is working around the clock to innovate and provide resources to help them weather this storm," said **Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski**. "Thanks to the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and the Financial Navigators initiative, we will do even more to ensure that working families can access and easily navigate the critical financial supports they need."

"Birmingham is a city of builders – it's our legacy. But the COVID-19 pandemic created conditions that made life extremely difficult for our residents," said **City of Birmingham Mayor Randall L. Woodfin**. "It's now our duty as a city to work beyond those setbacks and strengthen our comeback. Through the CFE Fund and Financial Navigators program, we are ensuring that our residents do not have to go through recovery alone. They will be equipped with guidance,



resources, and a financial toolkit for long-term stability. This is where a better financial future begins."

"Congratulations to the Mayor's Office of Financial Empowerment for receiving a Financial Navigators grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, which will help Boston implement the Financial Navigators initiative. This program will allow us to help residents build economic resiliency as Boston recovers from COVID-19 through providing resources to protect and stabilize income and assets," said **City of Boston Mayor Walsh**. "As we continue to respond to the crisis, we know we must provide supports for residents that help build on public health needs and assist with reestablishing access to income supports, financial services, housing stability and jobs."

"What does this mean for Brownsville? It means that during a time of potential financial uncertainty for families in our community, the city in partnership with CDCB, have found a program that can provide financial education to help ease that uncertainty," said **City of Brownsville Mayor Trey Mendez**. "Having the Financial Navigator's program in our community will help provide support to residents through referrals to services and help residents identify immediate financial action steps. I believe the CFE Fund's support will be another step in making a more financially educated community. It's a strong investment in the people and the financial future of Brownsville."

"We are so thankful for the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and the support it is providing to our response and recovery from the COVID pandemic," said **City of Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles**. "This grant funding will enable us to better address our community's economic mobility issues by providing financial counseling to low income and vulnerable families, and connecting our current support in a more seamless manner."

"When I ran for office, I ran with the intention of transforming Chicago into a more equitable city that works for everyone, no matter their circumstances," said **City of Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot**. "I know that being a part of the Financial Navigators Program will help accelerate this goal and allow us to better serve our communities - especially the ones that have been hit the hardest by COVID-19. We are immensely proud and grateful to partner with the CFE Fund and look forward to working together closely to ensure that Chicagoans have what they need to stay afloat during these uncertain times."



“The City of Columbus is committed to fostering resilience among all residents to help them weather financial shocks and stressors, such as those created by the global pandemic,” said **City of Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther**. “This Financial Navigator program contributes to the growing momentum to be a Resilient City that supports the financial security and prosperity of all of our residents. While we expect the overall prosperity of the Columbus region to continue, we must assure that economic recovery is equitable, especially reaching women and people of color.”

“COVID-19 has completely upended our small business ecosystem and the lives of our residents. As local leaders during this global pandemic, we have been called to address the extraordinary needs and financial distress in our communities,” said **City of Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson**. “I am extremely grateful for the assistance provided by this partnership, and I look forward to working with the CFE Fund to help the people of Dallas navigate their finances amid these difficult times.”

“I’m delighted that our City’s Human Services Department, through the FRC’s SparkPoint program will be adding a CFE Financial Navigator to our team, ensuring that residents in need, struggling from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, will receive the guidance and resources they need to get through this time,” said **City of Fremont Mayor Lily Wei**. “Our city is committed to assisting families through shelter in place, with free financial coaching, income tax assistance, family support and many more services.”

“The City of Gaithersburg welcomes this opportunity to provide a critical new service to our residents,” said **City of Gaithersburg Mayor Jud Ashman**. “We know that this pandemic has impacted every corner of Gaithersburg, and our Community Services staff is stretched beyond capacity. Rapidly being able to put into a place an additional resource to help guide our residents through their financial challenges will not only help them, it will serve to strengthen our entire community.”

“This may be one of the most important things that we can do to directly impact the lives of citizens that have been thrown in the turmoil of lost wages, housing issues and financial crises, said **City of Brunswick City Manager Regina McDuffie**. “It’s hard dealing with financial issues in normal times and as we all know ‘times are far from normal.’ Providing financial direction and resources may be the difference between having shelter and homelessness; that’s significant. We want to do everything that we can to assist our residents and citizens.”



“Jacksonville is proud to be a recipient of the 2020 Financial Navigators initiative grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund,” said **City of Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry**. “With many cities experiencing an increase in demand for financial counseling and assistance services due to COVID-19, this program will help our residents deal with the pandemic's financial impact.”

“We are proud to be part of a program that thoughtfully bridges the private and public sectors to assist our nation’s hardest-hit families. These partnerships are vital to ensure an increasing number of distressed residents find relief,” said **Joseph M. Nicchitta, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs**. “Through our Center for Financial Empowerment, this program will be available to 10 million residents across 88 cities in one of the nation’s largest and most diverse counties.”

“The City of Little Rock is eager to offer this program to our residents,” **City of Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott, Jr. said**. “The COVID-19 health crisis has had a detrimental effect on some local businesses and it is becoming increasingly more difficult for families to make ends meet. This program will assist residents in understanding what local, state and federal resources they are eligible to take advantage of and further counsel them in regards to the best use of their finances.”

“The City of Louisville/Bank On Louisville are honored to be awarded this grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, and are excited to partner with LHOME in launching the new, Financial Navigation Program,” said **City of Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer**. “These services build upon our city’s efforts to help lift the burden of financial challenges faced by so many residents due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The City of Madison is excited to partner with the CFE Fund in this innovative program that provides up-to-date national COVID-19 related financial information. This support will allow the City to focus on building relationships with community partners to provide residents with timely and localized financial guidance through the ever-changing landscape of this crisis,” said **City of Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway**. “Our library and community development staff will be working closely with partners, ranging from United Way’s 211 Resource and Referral Network, to neighborhood centers and others to ensure residents are able to find and access the financial information and resources they need as quickly as possible. As the economic impacts of COVID-19 continue to unfold, the Financial Navigators program will help city leaders understand and respond to the unique needs of the Madison community.”



“With COVID-19’s many challenges, it is more important than ever that Milwaukee families have the support they need to navigate resources that build and maintain financial stability,” said **City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett**. “We are confident that this partnership with Riverworks Community Development, funded by the CFE Fund, will link many people with much-needed help.”

“The City of Mount Vernon, NY is proud to partner with the Urban League of Westchester and the CFE Fund on the Financial Navigator Initiative,” said **City of Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard**. “The FNI funds will allow us to provide two financial navigators to our community to respond to economic concerns furthering our ability to respond to the community’s urgent needs and recover from the pandemic more rapidly.”

“We are excited to begin our partnership with the CFE Fund and grateful for their support,” said **City of Pueblo Mayor Nicholas Gradisar**. “Working with our non-profit partner NeighborWorks Southern Colorado, we will be able to provide much-needed financial navigator services to Pueblo residents facing difficult financial circumstances brought on by COVID-19.”

“The Financial Navigators are a missing link within our community - they will be able to connect residents with specific resources to assist with their recovery and survival through COVID-19 and beyond,” said **City of Richmond Treasurer Nichole R. Armstead**.

“We want to make sure residents are aware of resources that are available that can provide assistance through these difficult times,” said **Riverside County Board Chair and Fourth District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez**. “By calling 2-1-1, residents throughout Riverside County can reach out to a Financial Navigator and receive individualized counseling to help address financial concerns and learn of services that can help. We are excited to launch the Financial Navigators program in Riverside County, through the support of the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and local partnerships with 2-1-1, the Inland So Cal United Way and the Community Action Partnership of Riverside County.”

“We are honored to receive this generous grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund,” said **City of Tempe Mayor Corey Woods**. “Individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are overwhelmed right now trying to sort through all of the information about available programs and services. They want to know about emergency rent and mortgage funds so they can remain housed. They need employment assistance. They are worried about their credit. Access to financial navigators who can provide one-on-one guidance



is vital to ensuring that our community members get the help they need quickly during this devastating time.”

“We are in unprecedented times that are greatly affecting families and their finances and health,” said **City of Topeka Mayor Michelle De la Isla**. “Support from Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, as well as Bloomberg Philanthropies, is an amazing tool that will help our families have access to great partners in our community such as Housing and Credit Counseling (HCCI) completely free of cost. This support can help our citizens navigate challenges and find alternatives to remain housed and stay self-sufficient during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has touched every sector and every community in Tulsa. We are doing everything we can to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and this includes supporting Tulsans as they are experiencing financial instability and crisis,” said **City of Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum**. “We are grateful that we were able to leverage our partnership with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund to bring the Financial Navigator program to Tulsa. This program will be a key part of our emergency response and aligns with our city-wide goal to improve the overall financial health and resilience of our residents.”

“We know that our citizens are struggling, and in this environment where messaging is inconsistent, stress is high and the ability to keep track of all available resources is difficult at best, having the ability to provide a comprehensive and helpful resource like the Financial Navigators is invaluable,” said **City of Waco Councilman John Kinnaird**. “Being able to get those in our community to the help and resources they need with a compassionate voice and in an effective and timely manner is critical to the overall health and well-being of our residents, and this program will greatly assist us achieve that goal.”

“With so many residents struggling to make ends meet right now, we’re glad to be able to offer this program to help individuals prepare and respond to financial instability,” said **Jason Morgan, Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and Commissioner for District 8**. “Having trained Financial Navigators able to provide free remote assistance to help residents access resources and make major financial decisions is extremely important.”

FINANCIAL NAVIGATORS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The CFE Fund partnered with [Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners](#) (NTFP) and [Global Learning Partners](#) (GLP) to design the Financial Navigators initiative and to provide technical assistance



to Financial Navigator partners. NTFP helped identify the range of topics that Navigators will cover and the national context for each topic; identified national resources for client follow-up; and created the triaging paths that Financial Navigators will use to guide callers to relevant resources. GLP created a learning platform for Navigators, providing a program overview, Navigation best practices, and deep dives on key Navigation topics. They also created a National Resource Library with detailed information about the 37 key topics that Navigators will cover; Navigators will have this resource at their fingertips as they speak with callers.

“The Financial Navigator program has tremendous potential. It offers hope, resources, and support to bolster the financial well-being of countless hardworking Americans during these uncertain times,” said **Tyler Phillips, Partner, Global Learning Partners**. “Global Learning Partners is honored to work alongside CFE Fund to bring a principles-based, learning-centered approach to this historic and innovative initiative.”

“Financial Navigators is making financial empowerment services more accessible to tens of thousands of families at a time when they need trusted, expert financial guidance the most,” said **Justine Zinkin, CEO, Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners**. “The program is informed by over 20+ years of experience helping working families navigate financial challenges, as well as up-to-date insights and resources from post-COVID financial coaching to reflect the financial realities people face today. We’re proud to have collaborated with CFE Fund and Global Learning Partners to design this initiative.”

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTERS

As part of its [FEC Public](#) platform, the CFE Fund also announced an expansion of FEC services, as well as a pivot to remote services across all 20 operational FECs; these FEC partners are Akron, OH; Aurora, IL; Denver, CO; Detroit, MI; Greenville County, SC; Houston, TX; Lansing, MI; Memphis, TN; Nashville, TN; New Haven, CT; New York, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Pittsburgh, PA; Polk County, IA; Roanoke, VA; Rochester, NY; Sacramento, CA; San Antonio, TX; Shreveport, LA; and Syracuse, NY. FECs provide professional, one-on-one financial counseling as a free public service. In partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies, Citi Foundation, JPMorgan Chase & Co., and the Wells Fargo Foundation, the CFE Fund supported additional FEC counselors to meet this increased demand. In addition, this funding supported a number of enhancements to the national FEC Public infrastructure so that services could be offered remotely, such as developing electronic consent forms and creating new COVID-related indicators to help partners better track counselor efforts and report on FEC impact. The CFE Fund also released a new brief, [Meeting the Emergency Moment: Key Takeaways from Delivering Remote Municipal](#)



[*Financial Counseling Services*](#), outlining best practices and lessons learned as FEC partners shifted to remote financial counseling.

First piloted in New York City under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in 2008, existing FECs across the country have served over 108,000 clients, helping them reduce individual debt by over \$150 million, and increasing their families' savings by more than \$23 million.

"During such an unprecedented and difficult time, Akron's Financial Empowerment Center has been an invaluable resource, helping our citizens best manage their income and navigate the array of pandemic-related financial assistance from our local, state and federal governments," said **City of Akron Mayor Daniel Horrigan**. "With support from the CFE Fund, our Akron Center has been able to hire an additional coach and offer remote sessions, to assure coaching remains easy and accessible to the increasing amount of people that need our help."

"Much like the rest of our municipal operations, the Aurora FEC has seamlessly and successfully pivoted to best serve our community during the pandemic," said **City of Aurora Mayor Richard C. Irvin**. "As we navigate through COVID-19, our families need and deserve high-quality professional assistance that can be delivered remotely and reliably. That has been made possible through the reimagined service delivery model the Aurora FEC has implemented."

"Thanks to the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and our other partners, the Detroit Financial Empowerment Center has been able to assist hundreds of residents through financial hardship caused by COVID19, while helping them continue to plan for their long-term financial goals," said **City of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan**. "This continued support from the CFE Fund will help us meet increasing demand and continue to provide high quality financial counseling for Detroit residents that need these services."

"The financial stability of the families and individuals of Greenville County is essential to fulfilling our mission to improve the quality of life for all. Before the pandemic hit, we had already established popular and well-functioning FECs in eight diverse areas of the County," said **Joseph Kernell, County Administrator, Greenville, SC**. "The passionate and professional counselors were able to provide our citizens immediate services mitigating an unforeseen economic crisis. Now, we can continue to build upon that successes."

"As we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn it caused, individuals and families are making tough choices about their finances. The good news is that they don't have to make those hard decisions alone," said **City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner**. "The City of



Houston offers free, professional financial counseling through the Houston Financial Empowerment Center, which opened in January. Giving Houstonians access to free financial coaching that helps them manage money, reduce debt, improve their credit, and grow their savings has been a tremendous addition to Houston's lineup of impactful city services. I appreciate the CFE Fund for granting more funds to the City of Houston to expand our services and assist more people during this challenging time.”

“The Lansing Financial Empowerment Center at Cristo Rey Community Center has served nearly 5,000 clients since its launch in 2013, and of those, 55% have household incomes of \$15,000 or less. It is these Lansing residents whose financial lives will be impacted most by COVID-19, and we are dedicated to being there for them with resources, guidance, and a supportive listening ear,” said **City of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor**. “Our financial counselors pivoted immediately to telephone and online services in March, ensuring there were no gaps in service to the financially vulnerable during the stay-at-home order. For our families’ financial lives, these free financial counseling sessions are the first line of defense.”

“Our primary goal during the COVID-19 pandemic has been to keep Philadelphians safe. Our Financial Empowerment Centers have been an important part of achieving that goal,” said **City of Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney**. “Counselors at the Centers help people avoid COVID-19-related scams, access banking remotely, and make a plan as their budgets are constantly shifting due to unemployment and COVID-related expenses. I also want to thank our Financial Empowerment Center partner, Clarifi, which moved swiftly to be able to offer all services remotely, protecting our residents through proper social distancing.”

“We opened the Financial Empowerment Center in Polk County this spring and the timing couldn’t have been more relevant as we saw more and more families struggle with the financial impacts of COVID-19,” said **Polk County Board of Supervisors Chair Matt McCoy**. “Our partners at the Financial Empowerment Center are working tirelessly to connect individuals and families to banking and provide important financial planning education and counseling. This has been a terrific and timely investment in our community.”

“In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, we’ve adapted our Financial Empowerment Center program to provide virtual services until it’s safe to meet in person,” said **City of Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg**. “And while we remain committed to helping people meet longer-term financial goals like saving, banking safely and building credit, we are also using a



combination of federal stimulus funds and a generous new grant from the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund to add additional staff to help families in crisis due to Covid-19.”

“San Antonio’s new COVID-19 Financial and Housing Recovery Centers assist residents with their personal finances, unemployment claims and other benefits, rent and mortgage payments, small business recovery loans, and workforce training options. Expanding the Financial Empowerment Center model is an important part of this work,” said **City of San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg**. “Since 2013 our Financial Empowerment Centers have helped more than 12,300 residents to improve their financial understanding, reducing their debt by a total of \$2.3 million and increasing their savings more than \$7 million. Now, more than ever we are helping residents to access all services available to them and to recover from the financial impact of this pandemic.”

“Many in our community of Memphis/Shelby County, TN were on precarious financial footing prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the free financial counseling provided by our Greater Memphis Financial Empowerment Center (GMFEC) counselors was helping our citizens to stabilize their finances,” said **Shelby County Trustee Regina Morrison Newman**.

“Unfortunately, with the economic tsunami unleashed by the pandemic, our residents need that counseling and help more than ever. COVID-19 resulted in an immediate uptick in the number of GMFEC clients and a transition to 100% remote work for our counselors. With the end of the extra federal unemployment, and resumption of evictions and utility cutoffs, our counselors are helping clients revise their budgets to reflect their current financial situation, helping them negotiate with creditors, and referring them to direct aid resources including food, housing and jobs. The GMFEC has already partnered with our local eviction prevention program to provide counseling. For the time being, needs continue to rise and the GMFEC continues to work to fill the need.”

“It’s important that, as a city, we help Shreveport citizens navigate the financial burdens imposed by COVID-19 and that we do it safely,” said **City of Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins**. “This additional funding from the Cities for Financial Empowerment not only enables us to hire more counselors, but it also expands our remote services, so we can offer free, safe, data-driven financial counseling to local citizens in their hour of need.”

“The COVID-19 health and economic crisis has brought unprecedented hardship on households worldwide. We are fortunate here in Syracuse to have the Financial Empowerment Center to address these impacts in a meaningful way for our residents. Since March, the City of Syracuse



FEC has offered quality financial counseling services remotely. The continuation of this service has directly contributed to economic stability in households in our community,” said **City of Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh**. “The FEC is helping us achieve our vision of being a growing city that embraces diversity and creates opportunity for all. I am proud to say that in the past year, our FEC has reduced debt by more than \$620,000 and increased household savings by \$310,000. We look forward to continuing to offer this city service into the future and expanding by adding a new counselor to work at our Department of Social Services, as the crisis continues. We want to thank our partners, in particular the CFE Fund and Home Headquarters for their efforts in helping us deliver this service.”

About the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund (CFE Fund)

The CFE Fund supports municipal efforts to improve the financial stability of households by leveraging opportunities unique to local government. By translating cutting edge experience with large scale programs, research, and policy in cities of all sizes, the CFE Fund assists mayors and other local leaders to identify, develop, fund, implement, and research pilots and programs that help families build assets and make the most of their financial resources. The CFE Fund is currently working in over 100 cities, and has disbursed over \$42 million to city governments and their partners to support these efforts. For more information, please visit www.cfefund.org or follow us on Twitter at [@CFEFund](https://twitter.com/CFEFund).

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