Alameda County Responsibility to Community Health (ARCH) Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I qualify if I am receiving Unemployment?
   No. Current recipients of Unemployment Insurance Benefits (UIB) are not eligible for the stipend.

2. Do I qualify if I have employer paid sick leave?
   No. If you qualify for and are receiving employer paid sick leave of any kind you are not eligible for the ARCH program.

3. Will immigration status impact program eligibility?
   No. Program eligibility is not based on immigration status.

4. Am I eligible for the program if I have been laid-off or furloughed, but have not tested positive for COVID-19?
   No. Eligibility for the ARCH program is based on a positive COVID-19 test in addition to the eligibility criteria above.

5. Is the stipend retroactive?
   No. Stipends are not retroactive. The effective date of program eligibility is August 24, 2020.

6. How long can I receive the stipend?
   Stipends are available to eligible COVID-19 positive individuals, who meet all eligibility criteria, on a one-time basis.

7. How will I receive the stipend?
   Stipends will be issued in the form of a Visa pre-paid card.

8. Can I get the stipend in another form (check, wire transfer)?
   At this time stipends will only be issued in the form of Visa pre-paid card.

9. If I am still sick after 2 weeks, can I get a second stipend payment?
   No. The stipend program is for a two-week period only. Extensions will not be considered.

10. I am waiting for my test result. They told me that I should not go to work until I get my test result. Am I eligible for the stipend?
    No. Eligibility for the stipend is effective once the individual has received a positive COVID-19 test result.

11. Is the stipend taxable income?
    No. Stipends are not taxable income.

12. Will my information be shared with any other government agency?
    No. All information provided to determine ARCH program eligibility is confidential and will not be shared with any outside entities other than the identified participating County agencies and Health Clinics at this time.

13. Do I have to be employed to receive the stipend?
    No. Employment is not a program eligibility requirement; however, all eligible adult household members must test positive for COVID-19 and meet all program eligibility criteria.

14. I am homeless and have tested positive for COVID-19. How can I receive a stipend?
    Eligible homeless ARCH applicants are required to self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days, in a Project Roomkey hotel, either Comfort Inn or Quality Inn, before they are eligible to receive a stipend.

15. If I am homeless and self-isolate in a hotel other than Comfort Inn or Quality Inn, will I be eligible for the stipend?
    No. At this time self-isolation is limited to Comfort Inn or Quality Inn.

16. Will the Case Investigation/Contact Tracing (CI/CT) Unit provider complete applications for each adult in household?
    Yes. CRT/Resource Navigators will complete an ARCH application on each COVID-19 positive adult (as confirmed by lab test) living in the house to determine program eligibility.

17. If more than one family lives in a house, are they limited to one stipend?
    No. If multiple adults living in one house test positive for COVID-19, each COVID positive adult will need to submit an application for the ARCH program. ARCH program eligibility is determined on an individual case by case basis.

18. Is marriage a factor for eligibility?
    No.

19. I live with other COVID-19 positive adults. Should they be included on my ARCH application?
    No. This would be a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).