

AGENDA ITEM: #5

POSTING LANGUAGE: Briefing and update on Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) and Eviction Prevention. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, FAICP, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department]

DEPARTMENT:

Neighborhood & Housing Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Verónica R. Soto, FAICP, Neighborhood & Housing Services Department Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:

Citywide

SUMMARY:

Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) and Eviction Prevention Update

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On April 23, 2020, City Council approved the creation of the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP). The program provides eligible applicants rental, mortgage, and utility assistance.

The EHAP is administered by the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department (NHSD). As of January 19, 2022, the City has approved \$178.8 million in assistance to over 56,800 households seeking emergency rental, mortgage, and utility assistance (including administrative expenses).

The current total budget for the EHAP is \$198.5 million. As a result, there is a total remaining balance of \$19.7 million in EHAP, which includes \$2.8 Million from the Bexar County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) to be utilized only for rent in Bexar County outside of the City limits. This remaining funding is projected to be fully expensed in February 2022 if no additional funding is appropriated.

The total budget for the EHAP is \$198.5 million. This includes Phases I-IV of the EHAP. The budget is expected to grow by \$4,569,335.71million as a result of notice from US Treasury of ERA-1 round 1 reallocated funds received on December 30, 2021. This item will go to City Council on January 27, 2022. Should that item be approved, the total EHAP budget will total \$203 million. Additional funding from the Local Recovery Funds of the American Rescue Plan Act for EHAP will be considered in early February by City Council.

The below chart provides the breakout by City Council District as of January 19, 2021.

Emergency Housing Assistance Program				
CD	Avg AMI %	Approved	Avg HH Size	Approved \$
1	26.7	5,169.	2	15,102,855.
2	27.3	7,994.	3	23,698,945.
3	27.8	6,138.	3	17,712,016.
4	28.6	4,875.	3	15,401,100.
5	24.0	4,028.	3	11,011,344.
6	30.6	5,286.	3	16,645,993.
7	28.3	6,094.	3	18,076,336.
8	29.6	6,197.	2	19,196,246.
9	30.5	3,885.	2	12,589,284.
10	30.3	4,770.	2	15,235,015.
County	29.7	2,401.	3	9,204,805.
Totals		56,837		\$173,873,938

ISSUE:

Applicants seeking rental, mortgage and utility assistance are eligible for up to 9 months of assistance based on the following eligibility criteria for the EHAP applicants, all applicants must:

- ☞ Reside within the San Antonio or Bexar County
- ☞ Provide documentation of hardship due to COVID-19
- ☞ Make less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

Assistance is tiered based on the applicant's AMI:

- ☞ If an applicant's income is at or below 50% AMI, the applicant is eligible for up to 9 months of rental or mortgage assistance and the current bill amount for utility bill (SAWS, CPS Energy, Internet) assistance.
- ☞ If an applicant's income is between 51% and 80% AMI, the applicant is eligible for up to 6 months of rental or mortgage assistance and the current bill amount for utility bill (SAWS, CPS Energy, Internet) assistance.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.