



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: May 9, 2022

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Housing Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Veronica Garcia, Interim Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Housing Assistance Program (HAP) Update

SUMMARY:

Housing Assistance Program (HAP) Update

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Housing Assistance Program (HAP), based on the Risk Mitigation Fund Policy adopted by City Council in 2019, aims to assist renters and homeowners alike going through hardships to keep them housed and prevent future displacement. The program provides eligible applicants rental, mortgage, and utility assistance, as well as relocation assistance for households facing instability. Families up to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) may qualify for assistance, provided they demonstrate a pandemic-related hardship.

The program launched on April 29, 2022 and over 800 applications have been received. Eligible

services for housing stabilization include rent/mortgage, late fees, utilities, and internet service. Households can receive up to three consecutive months of rental/mortgage assistance in an amount up to \$3,500 and utility assistance up to \$1,500. Assistance is provided only once per 12-month period.

In addition to rental/mortgage assistance, the Housing Assistance Program assists families with relocation assistance services. Eligible services include temporary lodging while permanent housing is secured, security/pet deposits and application fees, moving expenses, counseling/referral fees, and a landlord incentive payment equal to one-month rent. Families will also be provided bus passes to attend court hearings, visit prospective housing, or meet with a case manager. Eligible households may receive up to \$3,000 for relocation-related expenses per 12-month period (mobile home owners may receive up to \$7,000 for related expenses).

The total budget for rental/mortgage assistance is approximately \$5.5 million of which about 9% is for administrative support. In addition, relocation assistance services has a budget of \$4 million for FY2022. The City of San Antonio recently received a grant from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to supplement the relocation assistance services budget in the amount of \$4.3 million over two years.

ISSUE:

Applicants seeking rental, mortgage and utility assistance are eligible for up to 3 months of assistance, and all applicants must:

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

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

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RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.