



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 25

**Agenda Date:** November 18, 2021

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Neighborhood and Housing Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Verónica R. Soto

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

An ordinance accepting an additional \$4,400,000 in U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) grant funds for rental assistance from Bexar County for the Covid-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP).

**SUMMARY:**

Consideration of an amendment to an existing contract with Bexar County for the acceptance of \$4,400,000 in additional ERA grant funds for the purpose of continuing to provide rental assistance to Bexar County residents.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

On April 23, 2020, City Council approved the creation of the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP). The EHAP is administered by the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department (NHSD) and provides eligible applicants rental, mortgage, and utility assistance.

On June 17, 2021, City Council approved, through ordinance 2021-06-17-0446, a \$5,500,000 agreement with Bexar County to provide rental assistance to County residents with U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) grant funds. This action will increase Bexar

County's total contribution from ERA funds to the COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) budget to \$9,900,000.

The current total budget for the EHAP is \$193.8 million. An additional \$4,400,000 would bring the new total EHAP budget to \$198.2 million. As of October 27, 2021, the City has approved \$152.3 million in assistance to 50,856 households seeking emergency rental, mortgage, and utility assistance.

#### **ISSUE:**

On June 17, 2021 City Council approved an agreement with Bexar County to provide rental assistance to Bexar County residents. The agreement included an allocation of \$5,500,000 in ERA grant funds.

The amended agreement with Bexar County will provide \$4,400,000 in additional funds to support the EHAP. These funds are only available for Bexar County residents who reside outside of the City limits and are in need of rental assistance.

If approved, this amendment will increase Bexar County's contribution from ERA funds to the EHAP budget to a total of \$9,900,000. As of October 27, 2021, the City has approved \$152.3 million in assistance to 50,856 households seeking emergency rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. Of these, 2,028 beneficiaries are County residents who have received \$7.7 million in rental assistance.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

If City Council does not approve this amendment to the funding agreement with Bexar County, these funds will not be available assist County residents in need of emergency rental assistance.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item accepts Bexar County ERA funds in the amount of 4,400,000. There is no impact to the City's General Fund.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of an amended agreement with Bexar County for the acceptance of \$4,400,000 in ERA grant funds.

