



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

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Agenda Date: January 27, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Neighborhood and Housing Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Verónica R. Soto

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

An ordinance accepting an additional \$4,569,335.71 in Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA1) grant funds for rental assistance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury and appropriating funds for the Covid-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP).

SUMMARY:

This ordinance accepts and appropriates funds reallocated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury from the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA1) program under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

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.

Funding for the Covid-19 EHAP program has been from a variety of local, state and federal sources the largest of which is the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) provided by the U.S. Treasury in 2021. That funding will be exhausted in the first quarter of 2022.

The City of San Antonio requested \$60 million of reallocated funds from US Treasury in November per Reallocation Guidance released in October 2021. The amount of reallocated funds requested by eligible grantees was far greater than the funding available to distribute.

ISSUE:

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.

The current total budget for the EHAP is \$198 million. As of January 3, 2021, the City has approved \$168.2 million in assistance to 55,306 households seeking emergency rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. Adding \$4.6 million will allow for EHAP to process applications received in January 2022 and staff can process those applications in the first quarter of 2022. The program will close at the end of January if no additional funding is appropriated.

As of January 18, 2022, there is a total EHAP remaining balance of only \$16,371,797.81, of which \$13,271,569.03 remains in ERA funding from the U.S. Treasury with \$2,821,965.55 remaining in Bexar County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) to be utilized only for rent in Bexar County outside the City Limits, and \$278,263.23 from various other funding sources. This action will increase the EHAP remaining balance to \$20,941,133.52.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the funding is not accepted, approximately 2,000 families will not receive rent or mortgage assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance accepts an additional \$4,569,335.71 in Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA1) grant funds for rental assistance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury and appropriates the fund to the Covid-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP).

RECOMMENDATION:

The City of San Antonio recommends approval of the reallocated ERA-1 federal program funds for the purpose of continuing to provide rental assistance to San Antonio residents.