



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 5

Agenda Date: August 25, 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 Update

SUMMARY:

The Housing Assistance Program (HAP), based on the Risk Mitigation Policy adopted by City Council, is administered by the Neighborhood and Housing Services Department (NHSD). HAP aims to mitigate the financial hardships associated with the pandemic by providing financial assistance to eligible low-income families who have fallen behind on rent and utilities payments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In response to the pandemic, the City received funds from a variety of state, federal and local sources to provide housing assistance for low-income families to prevent housing instability. In order to achieve this goal, the City launched the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) in April 2020 to support households negatively affected by the pandemic with rental, mortgage, and utility assistance. EHAP approved \$206.3 million in assistance to nearly 66,000 households

before closing in March 2022.

In May 2022, EHAP transitioned into the Housing Assistance Program (HAP), which is based on the Risk Mitigation Policy adopted by City Council, and received 10,105 applications from households seeking rental, mortgage and utility assistance. Based on criteria established for the program, eligible households at or below 80% AMI could receive up to three months of housing assistance (\$3,500 maximum for rent assistance and \$1,500 max for utility assistance).

As of August 17, 2022, the city has approved \$7.9 million in assistance to nearly 2,874 households through HAP. The rental assistance application period closed on June 10, 2022, with the goal of covering tenants whose HAP applications were approved and refraining from accepting more applications than funds available. As of August 17, 2022, there are 3,845 applications under review or processing in the queue. NHSD is reviewing and processing applications as quickly as possible, prioritizing those facing eviction. A new application period for Rental Assistance is dependent on additional funds becoming available.

ISSUE:

While the demand for housing stability services in our city remains high, the HAP portal continues to accept new applications for the Resident Relocation Assistance Program (RRAP). RRAP provides financial assistance with reasonable moving expenses and applicable fees and deposits for eligible renters at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability due to the pandemic. Additionally, the Eviction Intervention Team is active at all Bexar County precinct courts providing the latest information on intervention services and free legal aid resources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.