



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 3

**Agenda Date:** January 19, 2023

**In Control:** Planning and Community Development Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Neighborhood and Housing Services

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Veronica Garcia, Director

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Update on the Housing Assistance Program

**SUMMARY:**

The Housing Assistance Program (HAP) provides financial assistance to stabilize eligible households experiencing emergency situations affecting their ability to pay rent.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In response to the pandemic, 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 over \$206 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. The rental assistance application period closed

on June 10, 2022, and NHSD processed over 10,000 applications.

A variety of state, federal and local funding sources continue to support the city's response to housing instability bringing the total Fiscal Year 2023 budget to \$10.1 million for rental assistance. As such, NHSD temporarily reopened the HAP application period for rental assistance for eleven days from October 7 through October 17, 2022 and processed over 4,000 online applications. Since May 2022, the City has approved over \$15 million in financial assistance to more than 6,000 eligible households through HAP.

To be eligible, households must have income no greater than 80% of the area median income; demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing stability; and experience financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, households will not be eligible for an additional rental assistance award if they received previous assistance from HAP within the last 12 months. Eligible households could receive up to three months of rental assistance not to exceed \$3,500. Households may also be eligible for assistance with utilities and internet service not to exceed \$1,500. Households facing eviction are prioritized for assistance.

#### **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 moving expenses and applicable fees and deposits for eligible low-income families facing housing instability. Additionally, the Eviction Intervention Team is active at all Bexar County precinct courts providing the latest information on eviction intervention services and free legal aid resources.

NHSD also continues to refer families needing mortgage assistance to the Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund, which provides up to \$65,000 per eligible household for mortgage payments, past due property taxes, property insurance, homeowner association fees, and utilities.

#### **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.