



**HOUSING &
PLANNING**

RENT Assistance Program

August 2020 – February 2021

Housing and Planning Committee
March 11, 2021



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RENT Overview



RENT Overview

RENT assistance for Austin tenants affected by COVID-19

Eligibility

- Live within Austin's full purpose jurisdiction
- Make 80% or less of the Median Family Income (MFI)
- Currently on a lease or contractually bound rental relationship
- Not already a recipient of federal rental assistance programs
- Can evidence a COVID-19-related income loss

Benefits

- Up to six months of full contracted rent payment for rent incurred between March 2020 through December 2020.
- Rent payments are made directly to the landlord/property manager/property owner who is owed the rent.



RENT Performance

August 2020 – February 2021



Austin Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT)

Topline Stats

4826

Number of Assisted Households

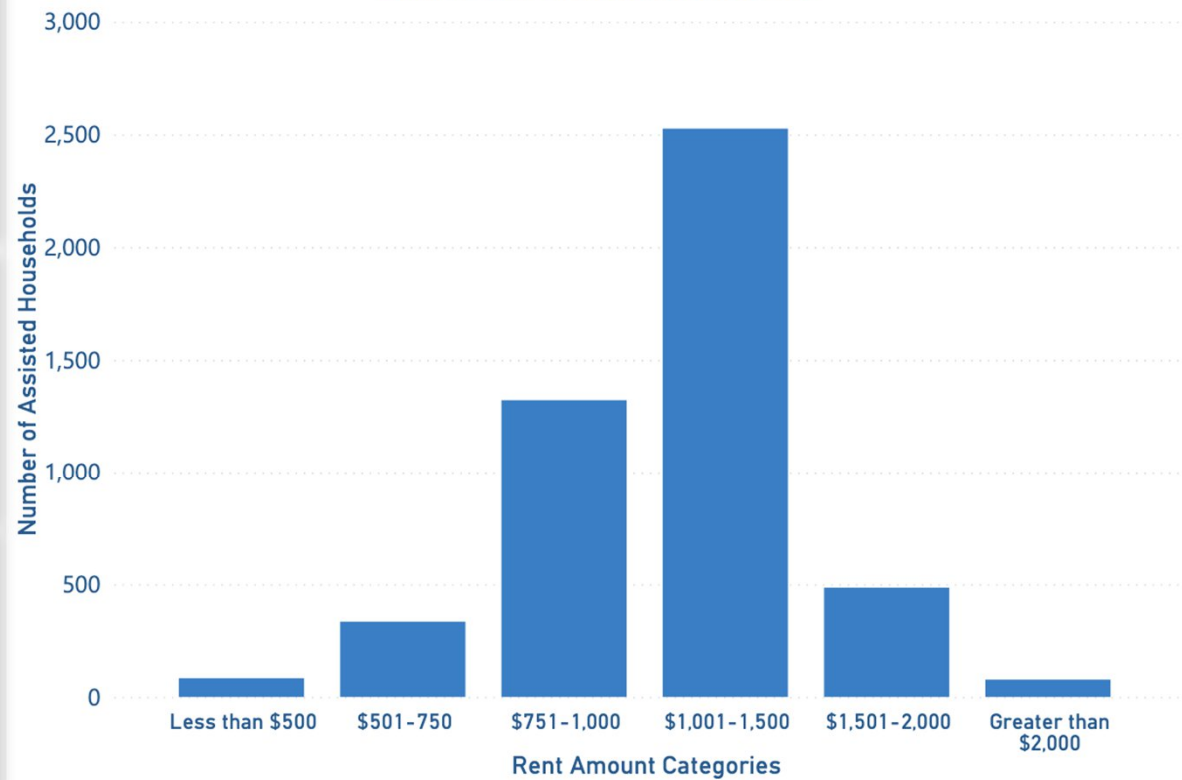
\$15,437,463

Total Assistance Paid

\$1,098

Median Amount of Rental Assistance

Distribution of Rental Assistance

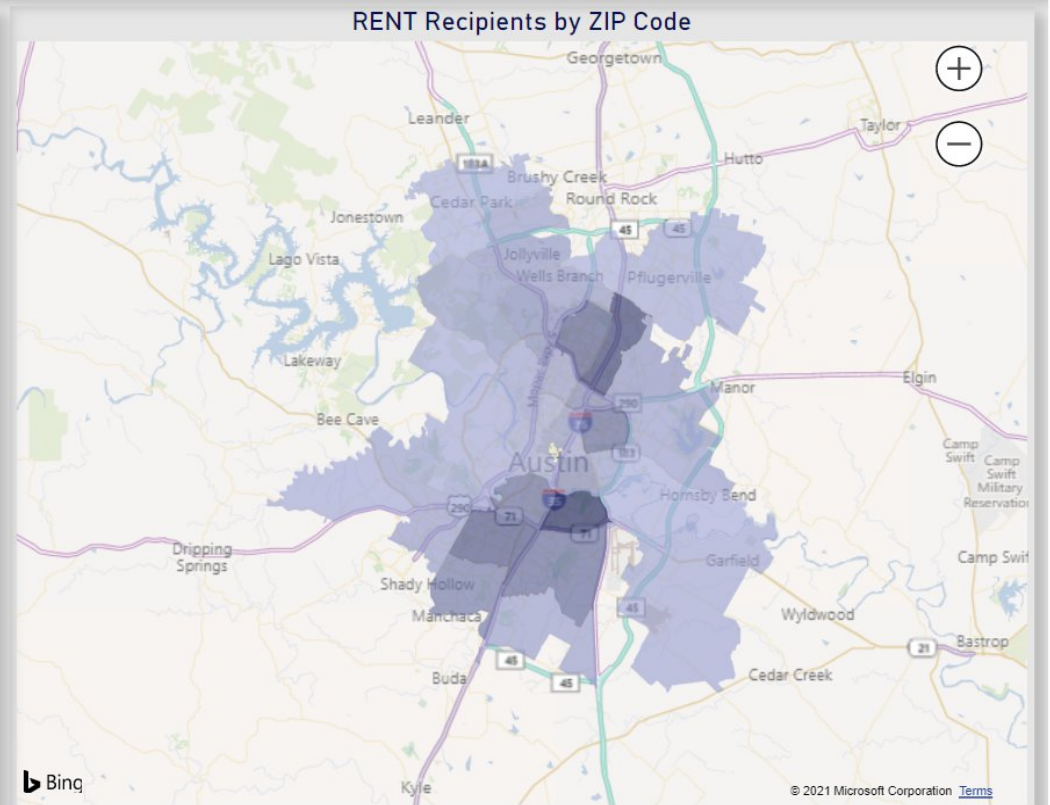




Austin Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT)

Geographic Dispersion

Zip	Assisted Households	% of Total
78741	558	11.56%
78753	457	9.47%
78745	370	7.66%
78758	343	7.10%
78744	289	5.99%
78723	288	5.97%
78704	277	5.74%
78748	230	4.76%
78752	177	3.67%
78702	154	3.19%
78759	154	3.19%
78754	115	2.38%
78750	103	2.13%
78705	100	2.07%
78727	98	2.03%
78729	97	2.01%
78751	97	2.01%
78757	89	1.84%
78726	79	1.64%
78749	74	1.53%
78717	72	1.49%
Total	4828	100.00%

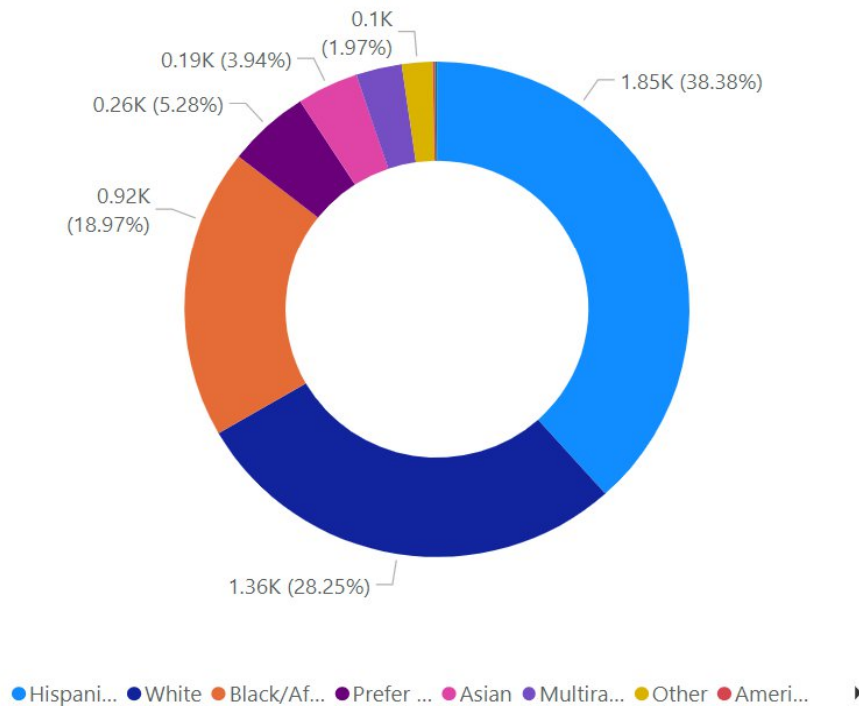




Austin Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT)

Demographics

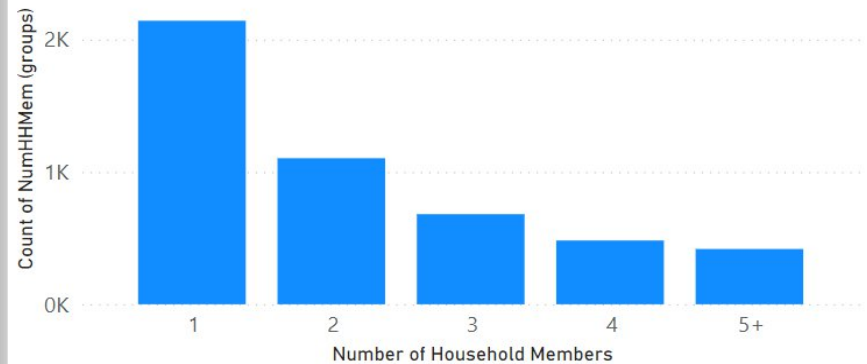
Head of Household Race/Ethnicity of Assisted Individuals



Head of Household Sex



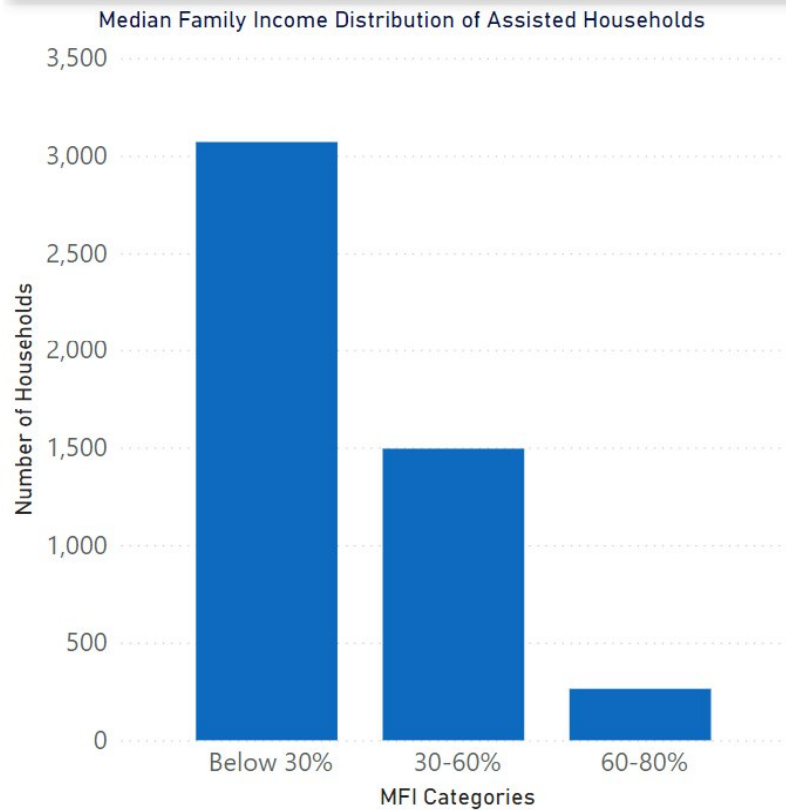
Household Size





Austin Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT)

Demographics

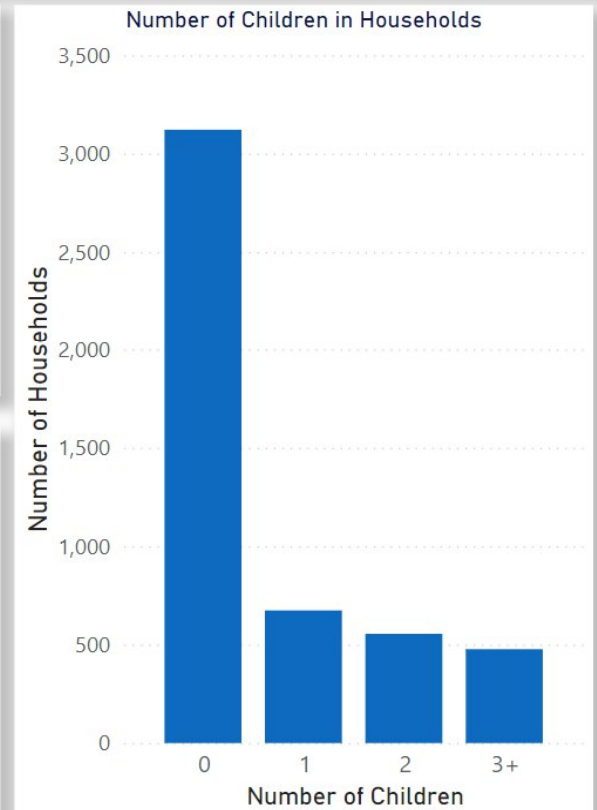


361

Head of Household with
Disability

20

Head of Household
Veteran Status





Designing for Equity



Goals for Designing a Program with Equity

- Rapid – Allowance for Parallel Tenant & Landlord Applications
- Accessible – Working with Community Partners to reduce barriers to application
- Accountable – Clear Demographic Data Captured
- Targeted – Prioritizes Households at 30% AMI
- Sustained – Up to 12 months back payment of RENT

From Texas Housers – Principles of Equitable Rent Relief



Future Funding & Programs



Future RENT Assistance

- \$29 Million in Funding (ERAP - U.S. Treasury Department)
- Assistance to Prioritize Unemployed Persons (past 90 days)
- Assistance to Prioritize Persons Under 50% AMI
- Utility Assistance Available
- Streamlined Application Process



Tenant Stabilization Programs

- I Belong in Austin (El Buen Samaritano)
- Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (El Buen Samaritano)
- Eviction Representation Program (Texas RioGrande Legal Aid)
- Tenant & Landlord Mediation Services (Austin Tenants Council)



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Thank You

[AustinTexas.gov/housing-planning](https://austintexas.gov/housing-planning)