



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1511, Agenda Item #: 16.

4/22/2021

Posting Language

Ratify an interlocal agreement with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin to provide emergency rental assistance for households impacted by COVID-19, and to provide marketing, communications, and outreach for the program, for the term February 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$29,467,788.00.

Lead Department

Housing and Planning Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$29,328,788.00 is available from the United States Department of Treasury, Emergency Rental Assistance Program with an additional allocation of \$139,000.00 coming from the Housing Trust Fund and General Fund for operational expenses and marketing for a total contract amount of \$29,467,788.00. A City funding match is not required. This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

August 12, 2020 - Council approved the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Housing and Planning Operating Budget.

For More Information:

Contact Rosie Truelove, Director, Housing and Planning, 512-974-3064; Nefertitti Jackmon, Policy and Planning Manager, Housing and Planning Department, 512-974-3196.

Additional Backup Information:

On March 6, 2020, a Declaration of Local Disaster was issued by Mayor Adler to allow the City to take measures to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the city and county. On March 13, 2020, Governor Abbott issued a Declaration of State of Disaster that allowed for additional steps to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Stay Home - Work Safe Order was issued March 24, 2020, to establish social distancing, and was extended through April 1, 2021.

To provide urgently needed and ongoing emergency rental assistance to households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, a contract for \$29,467,788.00 was issued to the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) to provide emergency rental assistance. This agreement is funded with federal funds from the United States Federal Government Emergency Rental Assistance Program. This grant funding will be utilized in accordance with federal guidelines. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program requires that not less than 90 percent of awarded funds must be used for direct financial assistance, including rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, and other expenses related to housing. Remaining funds are available for housing stability services, including case management and other services intended to keep households stably housed, and administrative costs. A portion of the contract, \$139,000, will be used to market and provide outreach and communications to prospective program participants.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.