

FY 2023-2024 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Housing Department

CBQ NO.: 101

REQUESTED BY: Velasquez

DATE REQUESTED: 07/21/2023

DATE POSTED: 08/08/2023

REQUEST: Based on the \$250k amount listed on page 61 for emergency rental assistance and relocation assistance combined, it is unclear how much money is specifically dedicated to tenant relocation assistance alone. Please provide the total number of tenant families provided with relocation assistance in the current fiscal year, the total number of applications submitted for relocation assistance, the average amount of funds per applicant that received relocation assistance, the total amount of funds dedicated to tenant relocation assistance, and the timeframe in which the funding was spent.

RESPONSE:

Page 61 of the FY24 Budget includes a reference to \$250,000 for emergency rental assistance or relocation assistance for tenants facing displacement. These funds will be combined with an additional \$500,000 in the FY24 and be dedicated exclusively to eviction prevention services (which includes both rental assistance and relocation services) through the I Belong in Austin program.

The Housing Department received \$497,411.20 from the U.S. Treasury through a reallocation formula for the ERA2 program. Those funds were approved by City Council at the July 20, 2023 meeting.

Austin Public Health will administer through an existing program (either Neighborhood Centers or through a third-party contract).

I Belong In Austin is a unique program that is responsive to the needs of tenant facing eviction and/or displacement. The program has several integrated components:

Referral program for eviction prevention services:

- Funding source: \$1M from Housing Trust Fund
 - 10/27/22 - \$400K added to contract, 1/26/23 - \$600K added to contract
- Status: The total amount of assistance distributed and the average amount of funds per applicant that received assistance in the current fiscal year from October 1, 2022, to present:
 - Total amount of assistance distributed: \$885,232.63
 - Total number of unique Household served: 207
 - Average funds received per Household: \$4,276.49

Please note that, of the 207 families served to date, 64 received rental assistance, others received assistance for negotiated settlements and relocation.

Emergency rental assistance, plus eviction prevention services of negotiated settlements and relocation assistance:

- Funding source - \$7.8M from Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund
- Status: After competitive solicitation, contract with El Buen Samaritano was approved by City Council on July 20, 2023. The Contract has been executed. Staff and the contractor are meeting on July 31, 2023, to plan the program launch.