



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 21-1690, **Agenda Item #:** 17.

4/22/2021

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### **Posting Language**

Ratify a three-month contract with El Buen Samaritano to fund and administer a program to provide financial assistance to low-income renters whose housing was impacted by Winter Storm Uri in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

### **Lead Department**

Housing and Planning Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Housing and Planning Department's Housing Trust Fund Operating Budget.

### **Prior Council Action:**

February 25, 2021 - Council approved resolution 20210225-006 to provide disaster relief related to Winter Storm Uri.

### **For More Information:**

Rosie Truelove, Director, Housing and Planning Department, 512-974-3064; or Nefertitti Jackmon, Division Manager, Housing and Planning Department, at 512-974-3196.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Funding will be provided for a three-month contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 with El Buen Samaritano (El Buen) to provide financial assistance to low-income households whose housing was impacted by Winter Storm Uri.

El Buen will collaborate with community organizations to identify low-income households whose housing was significantly impacted by Winter Storm Uri. This impact could include lack of water, gas, or electricity for an extended period of time or damage due to the impacts of the storm. Eligible households will receive \$1,000 to cover the costs of hotel accommodations or other temporary accommodations if needed. Funding may also be used to replace essential household items necessary for safe and decent housing and for relocation purposes to include deposits, rent, and utility payments, which can provide residents with flexibility to explore options for a more stable housing solution. This direct financial assistance model has been successful in the Relief In A State of Emergency (RISE) program to stabilize residents in need of short-term housing options.

El Buen is a highly qualified non-profit with over 30 years' experience and is prepared to deploy large scale emergency support and financial assistance. El Buen has been actively providing assistance to Latino, immigrant, and low-income individuals to pay utilities, rent, and/or additional specialty health care services since 2008. In 2020, El Buen distributed close to \$ 4,000,000 in RISE financial assistance to more than to 2000 families affected by the COVID pandemic.

### **Strategic Outcome(s):**

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.