



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3150, **Agenda Item #:** 33.

10/14/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the interlocal agreement with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin to provide emergency rental assistance for vulnerable households, for the term July 19, 2021 through June 30, 2022, to add \$6,643,637 from the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund, for a total agreement amount not to exceed \$41,659,428 and to include an additional scope of work for marketing and outreach activities to ensure robust outreach efforts.

Lead Department

Housing and Planning Department.

Fiscal Note

\$6,643,637 is available in the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund to allocate to the Relief of Emergency Needs of Tenants (RENT) program in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

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

July 29, 2021 - Council ratified the RENT 4.0 interlocal agreement with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin.

For More Information:

Contact Rosie Truelove, Director, Housing and Planning, 512-974-3064; Nefertitti Jackmon, Community Displacement Prevention Officer, Housing and Planning Department, 512-974-3196.

Additional Backup Information:

To provide urgently needed and ongoing emergency rental assistance to vulnerable households, the Housing and Planning Department entered into an interlocal agreement for \$35,015,791 with the Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) to provide emergency rental assistance. This agreement was funded with federal dollars from the United States Department of the Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA2). We are seeking to add additional dollars to this agreement from the City's Emergency Reserve Fund. These funds were approved by Council on June 10, 2021 but will only be made available during fiscal year 2021/2022. While the posting language on July 29, 2021 for the interlocal agreement included those funds, ultimately the ratified contract did not include those funds due to that unavailability until 2021/2022.

These additional funds will be used in accordance with federal guidelines. The ERA2 Program requires that not less than 85 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. New federal guidelines do not require demonstration of a COVID-19 financial impact.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.