



URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Government Code Section 54954.2(b)
Rules of Procedure Chapter III.C.5

THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES

Meeting Date: February 28, 2023

Item Description: Increase Funding to Housing Retention Program Contract

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

- Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)
Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.
- Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)
There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:

Eviction Defense Center (EDC) has been contracted to administer the COVID-19 rental assistance grants, including the addition of CDBG COVID-19 funds, from client applications to the disbursement of checks since June 29, 2021.

On February 3rd, EDC finalized the allocation of all remaining funds, and a waitlist was started. The waitlist now has six tenants requesting a total of \$44,142.86. It is anticipated these numbers will continue to grow. Specifically, new applicants with COVID-related debts will start coming to the EDC, Rent Board and so on as the statewide, county and City eviction moratoriums ramp down with the pandemic moving into the endemic phase.

The requested allocation of \$300,000 is anticipated to cover costs through the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2023.



Office of the Mayor

URGENT
ACTION CALENDAR
February 28, 2023

To: Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín
Subject: Increase Funding to Housing Retention Program Contract

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to:

1. Allocate an additional \$300,000 to the Housing Retention Program from General Fund salary savings or U1 HRP funds; and
2. Amend the current contract with the Eviction Defense Center (EDC) (No. 32100023) by \$300,000 for rent debt or other expenses that would enable applicants to retain housing.

BACKGROUND

The HRP is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing the City's goal to create affordable housing and housing support services for our most vulnerable community members.

The Housing Retention Program has been funded by the City of Berkeley for more than 15 years. Between 2018 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, EBCLC was the sole administrator of the program. Subsequently, EBCLC and EDC collaborated to distribute additional rental assistance funding allocated by City Council through the Berkeley Relief Program.

Following Council action on June 29, 2021, EDC has been contracted to administer the COVID-19 rental assistance grants, including the addition of CDBG COVID-19 funds, from client applications to the disbursement of checks. EDC was also given the authority to broaden the use of these funds to assist applicants with other debts (utilities,) that could cause housing instability and lead to an eviction. EDC is able to manage all of these rental assistance funds to ensure that tenants meet eligibility criteria and that there is no duplication of benefits to applicants.

On February 3rd, EDC finalized the allocation of all remaining funds, and a waitlist was started. The waitlist now has six tenants requesting a total of \$44,142.86. It is anticipated these numbers will continue to grow. Specifically, new applicants with COVID-related debts will start coming to the EDC, Rent Board and so on as the

statewide, county and City eviction moratoriums ramp down with the pandemic moving into the endemic phase.

The requested allocation of \$300,000 is anticipated to cover costs through the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2023. A subsequent budget referral will be required to allocate additional funds for the fiscal year from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no environmental impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

\$300,000 from General Fund funds (salary savings) or funds collected pursuant to Measure U1.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguin 510-981-7100

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE 2023 HOUSING RETENTION PROGRAM
AND AMEND CONTRACT NO. 32100023 WITH EVICTION DEFENSE CENTER

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, City Council approved \$250,000 of U1 funds (Budget Code 016-51-504-530-0000-000-444-636110-) for the HRP program for both FY 2022 and FY 2023; and

WHEREAS, on June 29, 2021 City Council approved Resolution #69945 to amend Contract No. 32100023 with Eviction Defense Center (EDC) to manage COVID-19-specific HRP grants; and

WHEREAS, EDC informed the City that on February 3rd, EDC finalized the allocation of all remaining funds, and a waitlist was started; and

WHEREAS, the waitlist now has six tenants requesting a total of \$44,142.86; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated these numbers will continue to grow as the statewide, county and City eviction moratoriums ramp down with the COVID-19 pandemic moving into the endemic phase.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley allocate an additional \$300,000 to fund the HRP through June 30, 2023 and allocate such funds to the Eviction Defense Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to amend the existing contract with Eviction Defense Center (No. 32100023), utilizing General Fund salary savings or U1 HRP funds, for rent or other expenses that would enable applicants to retain housing. A record copy of said agreement will be on file with the City Clerk.