

**Department:** County Human Services      **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski  
**Program Offer Type:** Innovative/New Program      **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted  
**Related Programs:** 25133  
**Program Characteristics:** One-Time-Only Request

**Executive Summary**

Stable housing is linked to a number of positive health and social outcomes for individuals, families and communities--and rental assistance is a key strategy to support renters. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented numbers of layoffs and furloughs leading to even deeper racial disparities and challenges to pay rent. A COVID Response Rent Assistance program will be developed to support more households with rent assistance.

**Program Summary**

**ISSUE:** Thousands of Multnomah County residents are unable to pay their monthly rent due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As moratoriums are lifted and people struggle to pay their bills, evictions are likely to increase and the need for rental assistance will increase.

Racial disparities existed before COVID and current national and state trends indicate that the economic hardships of the global pandemic are widening racial inequalities. These trends are likely mirrored at the local level. For instance, in Multnomah County, the majority of people who rent are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color).

**PROGRAM GOAL:** Provide COVID response rent assistance support so that households can remain stably housed by paying rent, including arrears and future rent payments using one time only Federal CARES Act funds.

**PROGRAM ACTIVITY:** These funds will support increased staffing capacity at non-profit organizations who currently provide rent assistance through the Short Term Rent Assistance (STRA) program and rent assistance payments. Current capacity cannot accommodate the increased volume of people requesting assistance. The 18 organizations that are currently part of the Short Term Rent Assistance (STRA) program and 21 info, Bienestar de la Familia will all provide intake, screening and application processing for this COVID response rent assistance.

STRA is a partnership between Multnomah County (County Human Services and the Joint Office of Homeless Services), the City of Portland, Home Forward and non-profit organizations.

**Performance Measures**

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	Number of households provided rent assistance	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,815
Outcome	% of households who avoid eviction through COVID rent assistance supports	N/A	N/A	N/A	95%

**Performance Measures Descriptions**

Target output is estimated based on an average of \$3000 per household in assistance. That amount is subject to change.

## Legal / Contractual Obligation

Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments

## Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2020	2020	2021	2021
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,275,040
<b>Total GF/non-GF</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$11,275,040</b>
<b>Program Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$11,275,040</b>	
<b>Program FTE</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,275,040
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$11,275,040</b>

## Explanation of Revenues

\$11,275,040 - COVID-19 State OHCS Eboard CARES Rent Relief Program / Rent Assistance

## Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: