

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs: 25133, 25199A, 25139
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Multnomah County declared a State of Emergency to prioritize slowing the spread of the virus. As part of that goal, the Board of Commissioners passed an Eviction Moratorium Ordinance. The ordinance includes a grace period for tenants to pay back rent accrued during the moratorium. As renters navigate the six month grace period alongside other impacts, it is a particularly perilous time for renters. This funding provides residential tenants timely and accurate information on their legal rights reflective of the changes at the local and state level.

Program Summary

ISSUE: COVID 19 has led to economic impacts that affect the most vulnerable of our residents, and create conditions for housing instability for renters across Multnomah County. Residential renters have been impacted by COVID 19 in myriad ways. These include: job loss; confusion relating to changes in the law; impacts of illness; race, perceived disability or other discrimination; and other emerging issues. As renters navigate the six month grace period alongside these other impacts, it is a particularly perilous time for renters.

The eviction moratorium has created a new and broad layer of protection for tenants in Multnomah County, and organizations that provide tenant protection advice are experiencing a higher volume of need to provide guidance. This higher volume is likely to increase during and after the grace period ends. Because local government employees can't advise on individual situations, and can only provide neutral information, non-profit advocacy organizations are uniquely positioned to provide more individualized assistance as trusted resources in the community. Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) in particular has culturally specific services and community connections and relationships.

PROGRAM GOAL: Renters in Multnomah County will have a resource to receive timely and accurate legal support for navigating issues and impacts from COVID 19.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: CAT will provide Renters Rights Hotline and other information and education services to Multnomah County residential tenants. CAT will work collaboratively with County staff and partner agencies to provide legal information, referral and education to residential tenants in Multnomah County, partner staff working with client populations, and others who may benefit from the information. Services shall be provided via hotline, website, written materials, social media and/or other effective means as determined by CAT; materials will be tailored to communities of color that are deeply impacted by the pandemic's economic impacts. Youth & Family services staff will work with the Office of Diversity and Equity to implement and manage this unique project in order to support tenants remaining stably housed.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY19 Actual	FY20 Budgeted	FY20 Estimate	FY21 Offer
Output	# Number of people receiving legal information, education and referral services	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,500
Outcome	% Narrative description of success stories and/or compelling cases in the final year-end report	N/A	N/A	N/A	3

Performance Measures Descriptions

Outcome measure is an estimate; adjustments may be made as the project progresses.

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	\$100,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Program Total:	\$0		\$100,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000

Explanation of Revenues

\$100,000 - COVID-19 Federal COVID CARES

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: