

Department: County Human Services **Program Contact:** Peggy Samolinski
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Adopted
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

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 that have will continue for years to come. This has lead to high levels of housing instability and even deeper racial disparities and challenges to pay rent. This program offer continues the County's leadership role in providing rent assistance and related supports.

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 is unprecedented. According to the County economist, over 10,000 renters in Multnomah County were unable to pay their rent in April. Racial disparities existed before COVID-19 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-19 response rent assistance support so that households can remain stably housed by paying rent, including arrears and future rent payments using Federal Emergency Rent Assistance funds - American Rescue Plan funds directly allocated to the County and ERA funds through Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS)

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: These funds will support a new team of County employees that will manage and process rent assistance applications through a new electronic application system developed by OHCS. This new system requires renters to enter their own application, and then each one must be reviewed for accuracy and completeness; connections with landlords are essential for a completed application. County staff will process these applications, engage with landlords and support and host outreach and engagement events in communities of color to ensure access to this new system. Funds will also be disbursed through a community based rent assistance program jointly led by the City of Portland, Joint Office of Homeless Services, Home Forward, County Human Services and non-profit organizations. There are currently 43 organizations providing rent assistance support to households.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of households receiving rent assistance	N/A	N/A	N/A	6,000
Outcome	% households receiving rent assistance who are at 50% or below of the Area Median Income	N/A	N/A	N/A	75%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Output estimated using \$7,000 per household.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,468,684
Contractual Services	\$0	\$11,275,040	\$0	\$45,914,345
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,000
Internal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$380,971
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$11,275,040	\$0	\$48,800,000
Program Total:	\$11,275,040		\$48,800,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$11,275,040	\$0	\$48,800,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$11,275,040	\$0	\$48,800,000

Explanation of Revenues

This program generates \$360,181 in indirect revenues.
 American Rescue Plan (ARP) Direct County Funding - \$4,800,000
 Federal Emergency Rent Assistance funds from Oregon Housing & Community Services - \$44,000,000

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

This program addresses the Crisis Response & Community Recovery priority. These funds are federal pass through from the State of Oregon and Multnomah County's local allocation, to provide emergency rent assistance to the thousands of County renters who are unable to pay rent due to the pandemic. This is particularly acute in communities of color.