



## MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

### Board Clerk Use Only

**Meeting Date:** 11/5/24  
**Agenda Item #:** B.1  
**Est. Start Time:** 10:00 AM

**Agenda Title:** Emergency Rent Assistance Board Briefing

**Requested Date:**  
11/5/24

**Time Needed:** 45 minutes

**Department/Division:**  
DCHS

**Requester Name & Email:**

**Please list all presenters, with their titles, organization or department, in order of speaker, or note if their role is to answer questions:**

Rachel Pearl - Deputy Director, Department of County Human Services  
Lolita Broadous- Housing and Stability Manager , Youth and Family Services  
Nabil Zaghloul - Bienestar De La Familia Manager, Youth and Family Services  
Becky Straus - Oregon Law Center

**Will your group join virtually or in-person? (check one)**

**Presenters will be in the Multnomah Building Boardroom**

**Presenters will be virtual/online. List emails of all virtual presenters:**

**Note: Virtual presenters must log in 15 mins prior to the start of the meeting to test video & mic**

### General Information:

**1. What are you requesting from the Board?**

The FY25 Adopted County Budget included a budget note on Emergency Rent Assistance requesting that the Department of County Human Services and the Joint Office of Human Services provide a briefing to the Board on the ongoing work to maximize support to households in our community, including detail on the following:

- An analysis of:
  - unmet need (demand for services versus available services)
  - appropriate staff-to-client case management ratios, including recommendations for acuity and housing status
  - efficacy and outcomes of county-delivered services and services delivered by contracted providers.
  - The short-term (6 month) and long-term (12 month) post-subsidy housing stability and retention rates for households served with Emergency Rent Assistance in FY 2024.

**2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.**

Emergency Rent Assistance has been a critical resource in our community over the last four and a half years. It has been instrumental in preventing evictions and homelessness in Multnomah County. However, since the nature of much of the funding was limited to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has faced significant reductions in funding in the last 2 years. At the same time, Multnomah County residents, particularly tenants with low incomes and who are people of color, have seen continued challenges in meeting their basic needs and housing stability.

DCHS continues to develop and evaluate programs that use Emergency Rent Assistance as a tool in order to maximize the use of funding to achieve eviction prevention and housing stability goals, while preventing fraud.

In this briefing, the two departments will share evaluation of the program's current practices and share information on the level of ongoing need for emergency rent assistance programs and client assistance.

By strengthening the Emergency Rent Assistance program, we can continue to provide essential support to vulnerable community members and families to promote housing stability in Multnomah County.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

There is no immediate fiscal impact from this agenda item. The intent is to brief the Board at its request on FY25 budget matters. The departments anticipate the information will also naturally inform the FY26 budget.

In FY25, the current total funding in eviction prevention and emergency rent

assistance in DCHS and JOHS budgets is \$23.8 million; the majority of the funding is one time only.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

The end of pandemic era eviction legislation has significantly reduced renter protections and led to a sharp increase in evictions, exacerbating the housing crisis in Multnomah County.

**5. Explain any community and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

The County's eviction prevention and emergency rent assistance efforts are part of the broader Eviction Prevention partnership between the County, City of Portland, Home Forward and community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide culturally specific and responsive services. The partnership includes centralized emergency rent providers, eviction legal defense providers, 211, and tenant advocacy groups in addition to the jurisdictional departments and bureaus.

Moving forward, we will continue to foster partnerships and seek opportunities for collaboration with other government agencies, nonprofits, and community members to enhance the effectiveness of the program and address the evolving housing crisis.

**Required Signature:**

<b>Elected Official/ Department Director:</b>	<b>/s/</b> 	<b>Date:</b>	10/31/2024
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*Note: Please insert name of your approver following the /s/. Send accompanying electronic approvals to the Board Clerk.*