

Department: Nondepartmental **Program Contact:** Christian Elkin
Program Offer Type: Innovative/New Program **Program Offer Stage:** As Proposed
Related Programs:
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. 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 and remain stably housed. A COVID-19 Response Rent Assistance program will continue so that we can 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-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 one-time-only Federal funds.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY: These funds will support two areas for rent assistance distribution: increased staffing capacity at non-profit organizations and County programs who currently provide rent assistance; and a new team of County staff to process applications. Nonprofit organizations, in particular those working culturally specific communities, need additional staff capacity to support households to access rent assistance. Second this funding will support a new team of County staff to process rent assistance payments. Oregon Housing & Community Services is developing a new centralized rent assistance application process that will automatically prioritize applications based on Treasury guidelines. This requires a new central model for administration and processing; Youth & Family Services will stand up this new model. This rent assistance effort 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.

Expenditures are budgeted as a placeholder in this program offer. These funds will be reallocated to departments when the budget is adopted.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer
Output	Number of households provided rent assistance	N/A	3,344	3,500	8,800
Outcome	Percent of households receiving COVID-19 assistance who avoid eviction	N/A	95%	95%	95%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Estimate for FY 2022 made at \$5,000 per household.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022
Contractual Services	\$0	\$11,275,040	\$0	\$48,800,000
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

\$4.8 million Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for emergency rent assistance
 \$44.0 million Federal emergency rent assistance funds from Oregon Housing & Community Services

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: