

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2021-156

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor and Council Vice President Newby

Date of Introduction: March 9, 2021

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F, R

Date of Analysis: March 8, 2021

Type of Action: Appropriation

Bill Summary: The bill

- appropriates the sum of \$28,920,070.08 in Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Grant Funds, authorized by the CARES Act, as initiated by B.T. 21-054;
- invokes the exception of Section 126.107(G) (Exemptions), Part 1 (General Regulations), Chapter 126 (Procurement Code), *Ordinance Code*, to allow for a direct contract with United Way of Northeast Florida, Inc.;
- approves and authorizes the Mayor, or his designee, and the corporation secretary to execute and deliver a contract with United Way of Northeast Florida, Inc. for the provision of ERA program services described in this ordinance;
- invokes the exception of Section 27 126.107(G) (Exemptions), Part 1 (General Regulations), Chapter 126 (Procurement Code), *Ordinance Code*, to allow for a direct contract with Civitas, LLC;
- approves and authorizes the Mayor, or his designee, and the corporation secretary to execute and deliver a contract with Civitas, LLC for the provision of supportive contractual services for the ERA program as described in this ordinance;
- approves and authorizes the Mayor, or his designee, and the corporation secretary to execute and deliver a contract with JEA;
- waives Section 110.112 (Advance of City Funds; Prohibition Against), Part 1 (The City Treasury), Chapter 110 (City Treasury), *Ordinance Code*, to allow for advance payment to United Way of Northeast Florida, Inc., JEA and Civitas, LLC as described in this ordinance;
- provides for oversight by the Housing and Community Development Division, Neighborhoods Department;
- provides for compliance with grant funding requirements and other requirements as provided by law; and
- requests emergency passage upon introduction

Background Information: The purpose of the appropriation is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance; and to support additional homeless assistance and homelessness prevention activities to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. Funds may be used for utilities and rental payment assistance.

The funds will be expended accordingly:

- United Way - \$22,033,565 - for direct rental assistance to eligible households
- United Way - \$1,786,505.08- for administrative costs
- JEA - \$5,000,000.00 – for payment of delinquent utility and home energy costs incurred by eligible households;
- Civitas, LLC - \$85,000.00 - for supportive contractual services for the ERA Program
- City of Jacksonville - \$15,000.00 - administrative costs for ERA Program

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The funds may be used for eligible households that incurred costs between March 13, 2020, through December 31, 2021. They can be applied to cover up to twelve (12) months of rent and utility and home energy costs, including arrears, for an eligible household. Funds may also cover up to three (3) months of prospective rent payments, subject to certain limitations provided in the Act and the availability of any remaining ERAP Funds.

Policy Impact Area: Emergency Rental Assistance, CARES Act

Fiscal Impact: The appropriation of \$28,920,070.08, as initiated by B.T. 21-054.

Analyst: Mitchell