

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2022-864

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

Date of Introduction: November 22, 2022

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

Date of Analysis: November 18, 2022

Type of Action: Appropriation, agreement authorization, *Ordinance Code* waiver, designation of oversight agency and emergency passage upon introduction

Bill Summary: This bill is an appropriation of \$3,330,234.89, additional Emergency Rental Assistance Program grant funds, made available to the City through a reallocation of ERA Program grant funds by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The bill authorizes an amendment to the Federal Subrecipient Agreement between the City of Jacksonville and Civitas Community Development, LLC to assist the City in administration of the ERA Program and distribution of ERA Program funds. Section 110.112 (Advance of City funds; prohibition against), Part 1 (The City Treasury), Chapter 110 (City Treasury), *Ordinance Code*, is waived to allow for advance payment to Civitas for direct assistance to eligible households. The Neighborhoods Department, Housing and Community Development Division will provide oversight. Emergency passage upon introduction is requested due to the deadline to obligate funds by December 29, 2022.

Background Information: The purpose of this legislation is to provide funds for emergency rent and utility assistance to eligible households in Duval County to mitigate the impacts of COVID 19. To be eligible for the funds, the ERAP funds may be used for rent, rent arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing incurred between March 13, 2020 and December 29, 2022. The funds may be used to cover up to 15 months of rent and utility and home energy costs, including arrears, for an eligible household, and may also be used to cover up to 3 months of prospective rent payments.

ERAP eligibility criteria for renters with a primary address in Duval County:

- One or more individuals within the household has: qualified for unemployment benefits, or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19 and can attest to such in writing
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which may include: a past due rent notice or eviction notice; unsafe or unhealthy living conditions; or any other evidence of such risk, as determined by the City; and
- The household has a household income that is not more than 80% of the area median income (AMI) for the household

Policy Impact Area: ERAP funds - emergency rent and utility assistance

Fiscal Impact: \$3,330,234.89 (\$2,997,211.40 for grants and aid to eligible households and \$333,023.49 set aside for Civitas' administrative costs paid monthly on a reimbursement basis), as initiated by B.T. 23-026, no local match required

Analyst: Hampsey