

Agenda No. 224

ORDINANCE No. 190356

*Accept and appropriate \$19,647,973 in Emergency Rent Assistance Program funds from United States Department of the Treasury (Ordinance)

The City of Portland ordains:

Introduced by
Commissioner Ryan

Section 1. The Council finds:

Bureau
Housing

1. On May 20, 2020, Resolution 37487 declared the City of Portland's intent to centralize, guide and coordinate COVID-19 efforts that bolster progress towards the City's long-term equity goals and directs the City's response programs to be in alignment with the Office of Equity and Human Rights: Equity Toolkit for Community Relief and Recovery Efforts.
2. On December 27, 2020, H.R. 133 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into law, making available \$25 billion to local jurisdictions to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. On January 8, 2021, the City of Portland submitted certification documents to receive a disbursement of \$19,647,973.30 in Emergency Rent Assistant Program (ERAP) funds from the United States Department of the Treasury, receiving those funds on January 26, 2021.
4. As a result of the State eviction moratorium expiring on June 30, 2021, and the existing houseless crisis in our region, the City has determined that it is necessary to utilize the full amount of ERAP funds for eviction prevention and rent assistance programs through the Portland Housing Bureau.

Prepared by
Anna Shook

Date Prepared
March 15, 2021

Requested Council Date
April 7, 2021

Requested Agenda Type
Regular
15 minutes

Date Filed with Clerk
March 30, 2021

5. As a result of one in five Portlanders being at risk of eviction and an estimated \$25 million in rental arrears being accrued each month, the Portland Housing Bureau shall work with our jurisdictional and community partners to develop a rent relief program that prioritizes Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities, people living with a disability, and other vulnerable populations who are at or below 50% Area Medium Income.
6. Due to the urgent and immediate need to begin disbursing relief funds, the Council finds it necessary to delegate contract and agreement execution authority to the Portland Housing Bureau Director to manage the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. In addition, the City finds it reasonable and appropriate under these circumstances to forgo any competitive process for awarding procurement contracts and subrecipient grants.

NOW THEREFORE, The Council directs:

- A. The Mayor is hereby authorized to accept on behalf of the City of Portland \$19,647,973.30 in Emergency Rent Assistant Program funds from the United States Department of the Treasury and to execute the grant agreement as attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- B. The FY20-21 budget is hereby amended as follows:
GRANTS FUND
 - a. Fund 217
 - b. Business Area – HC
 - c. Bureau Program Expenses– \$5,000,000
- C. The Office of Management & Finance Grants Management Division is authorized to perform and provide oversight of all administrative matters in relation to the federal funds, subrecipient agreements, contracts or amendments, requests for reimbursement, subrecipient grant monitoring, internal and external reporting and to submit required online grant documents on the Mayor’s behalf.
- D. The Director of the Portland Housing Bureau is authorized to accept on behalf of the City of Portland any subsequent modifications by the United States Department of the Treasury for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, provided such modifications do not increase the City of Portland’s financial obligation or risk. Any modifications that increase the City of Portland’s financial obligation or risk must be authorized by the Portland City Council.

E. The Portland Housing Bureau Director is hereby authorized to execute, amend, and terminate contracts and agreements funded by the Emergency Rental Assistance Payments grant through December 31, 2021.

Section 2. The Council declares that an emergency exists because a delay would unnecessarily delay the City's ability to perform the activities authorized by the grant. Therefore, this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Council.

Passed by Council: April 8, 2021

MARY HULL CABALLERO

Auditor of the City of Portland

By *Megan Lehman*

Deputy

Action taken:

Commissioners voted as follows (Yea or Nay)

Rubio - Yea

Ryan - Yea

Hardesty -

Mapps - Yea

Wheeler - Yea