

IMPACT STATEMENT

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

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

- As of January 26, 2021, the City of Portland received \$19,664,923.40 from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to administer local rental assistance payments as part of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).
- Many Portlanders are facing an uncertain future as a result of the coronavirus. As a result, the City has determined it is necessary to use ERAP funds to provide rent assistance that supports households facing extreme economic and housing hardships.
- The purpose of this legislation is to accept \$19,647,973.30, to appropriate \$5,000,000 into the Portland Housing Bureau's 20-21 budget, and delegate authority to the Bureau Director to execute contracts and agreements funded under the program.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

- The legislation –
 - Accepts \$19,647,973.30 in Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds and appropriates \$5,000,000 into the FY2020-21 budget.
- The legislation does not –
 - Authorize additional staffing levels

Community impacts and community involvement:

In the summer of 2020, the Housing Bureau convened four stakeholder and community workgroups to address the housing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic recession. One work group focused exclusively on the rental housing market, and this group developed a series of recommendations for the Housing Bureau and the city to consider implementing to address the rental housing market impacts of the pandemic. In response to this, in Portland and Multnomah County, the city, county, Home Forward, and Joint Office of Homeless Services developed and implemented a joint community centered COVID rent assistance program grounded in racial equity – the City is allocating ERAP resources to support this program. This program is intentional in deploying limited resources through over 40 community based and culturally specific organizations, in order to serve those most impacted by the recession, and those who have been disproportionately marginalized by the systems of society in the past – BIPOC communities. In addition, an open application and lottery will be available for the general public who do not have a connection to a community-based organization, and the program will be implemented in coordination with the state landlord compensation fund.

Locally, it is estimated the Portland housing market experienced 12-15% non-payment rates from May to December due COVID-19 – this translates to an estimated \$160 to \$200 million in rent arrears accumulation in 2020. 1 in 5 Oregon renters rents in Portland, and that number increases to 1 in 4 renters when including all of Multnomah County. When looking at BIPOC communities, through a lens of racial equity – over half of all Black renters, 1 in 3 Asian renters, 1 in 4 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander renters, and 1 in 4 multiracial renters in Oregon rent in Portland

The bureau continues to solicit feedback from impacted households, community-based partners, landlords, and other stakeholders to make ongoing modifications to the coordinated COVID rent assistance program.

100% Renewable Goal:

Not applicable.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

☒ **YES:** Please complete the information below.

☐ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Comm. Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount
217018	HCPG000001	529001	CDEHRA00000000GC	Non-Program	MF000015		\$5,000,000
217018	HCPG000001	441000	CDEHRA00000000GC	Non-Program	MF000015		\$5,000,000