

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 25, 2021

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: An informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, regarding the status of Milwaukee County's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds

File Type: Informational Report

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**REQUEST**

This report is being submitted in response to a request from the County Board to give an update to the Committee regarding the use of Emergency Rental Assistance Funds.

**POLICY**

Earlier this year, Milwaukee County received \$10,629,017 in Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) through the federal stimulus package to be used to continue Milwaukee County's work on eviction prevention by paying rental arrearages for those facing eviction as well as assisting households with paying rent in future months for households that qualify. These funds were contracted for use with the U.S. Department of the Treasury in March 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

Milwaukee County responded to the eviction crisis by funding payments to landlords to assist households that were behind in their rent and that would otherwise be facing eviction. A useful change in regulations for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program was that entities could not only pay rental arrearages but also rent moving forward for qualifying households that continue to have challenges with income related to the pandemic. Contracts were then entered into with the following agencies:

**Community Advocates:** Community Advocates processed all applications for Eviction Prevention funding through their Rental Resource Center as well as made all payments directly to landlords. The Housing Division provides direct monitoring of the program and support to Community Advocates. The total amount of this contract was \$7.1 million including \$400,000 for administration. The following tables give detail on the funds spent, numbers served, and

demographic data:

<b>Applications Received and Processed Metrics</b>	<b>6/14/2021 6/18/2021</b>	<b>Cumulative Total 3/1/21-6/18/21</b>
Total applications received tenant	302	6,447
Total Landlord inquiries received	21	1,715
Number of eligible households that received assistance	11	3,210
Number of Unique Households That received Assistance	3	2,548
Acceptance Rate of Applicants for Assistance	N/A	50%
Average Amount of Funding Provided Per Household	\$3,535.35	\$3,676
Evictions Filed	98 (6-1-6-4)	1,745 (Through 6/11)
	136 (6-7-6-11)	
<b>Direct Aid</b>		
Checks Sent MCEP ERAP Type <b>Arrears</b>	7	2,397
Arrears Total	\$33,147.86	\$7,981,684
Checks Sent MCEP ERAP Type Rent Assistance/ Future Rent	4	780
Rent Assistance/FUTURE RENT Total	\$5,741.00	\$1,360,344
Checks Sent MCEP ERAP Type UTILITIES	0	25
Rent Assistance/UTILITIES Total	\$0.00	\$18,151
Checks Sent OTHER HOUSEHOLD (SIEMER)	0	8
OTHER HOUSEHOLD (SIEMER) Other	\$0	\$7,976
Checks Sent MCEP ERAP	11	3,210
Funding Expended MCEP ERAP	\$38,888.86	\$9,368,155
<b>Total Remaining from \$6,700,000</b>		<b>(\$-2,668,155)</b>

**Community Advocates Eviction Prevention Rent Assistance Demographics Report for  
 Milwaukee County through 6/18/21**

**Race**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
American Indian or Alaskan Native	88	1.36%
Asian or Pacific Islander	63	0.98%
Black	4,853	75.28%
Multi-Race	233	3.61%
Unknown	344	5.34%
White	866	13.43%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6447</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Gender**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	4,982	77.28%
Transgender	13	0.20%
Unknown	24	0.37%
Male	1,427	22.13%
Other	1	0.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,447</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Ethnicity**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Hispanic/Latino	487	7.55%
Other	349	5.41%
Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	5,611	87.03%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,447</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Age**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
0 - 2	0	0.00%
3 - 11	0	0.00%
12 - 17	0	0.00%
18 - 20	160	2.48%
21 - 35	3,064	47.53%
36 - 60	2,073	32.15%
61 & over	120	1.86%
Unknown	1,030	15.98%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,447</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Income Levels**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Extremely low</b>	226	61.25%
<b>Very low</b>	90	24.39%
<b>Low</b>	47	12.74%
<b>Non-low moderate</b>	6	1.63%

**Zip Code**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>53211 (Milwaukee/Shorewood/Whitefish Bay)</b>	78	1.21%
<b>53209 (Milwaukee/Glendale/Brown Deer)</b>	640	9.93%
<b>53219 (Milwaukee/West Allis/Greenfield)</b>	100	1.55%
<b>53221 (Milwaukee/Greenfield)</b>	87	1.35%
<b>53222 (Milwaukee/Wauwatosa)</b>	150	2.33%
<b>53223 (Milwaukee/Brown Deer)</b>	350	5.43%
<b>53225 (Milwaukee/Wauwatosa)</b>	435	6.75%
<b>53110 (Cudahy)</b>	44	0.68%
<b>53129 (Greendale)</b>	17	0.26%
<b>53130 (Hales Corners)</b>	14	0.22%
<b>53132 (Franklin)</b>	21	0.33%
<b>53154 (Oak Creek)</b>	40	0.62%
<b>53213 (Wauwatosa)</b>	54	0.84%
<b>53214 (West Allis)</b>	174	2.70%
<b>53217 (Whitefish Bay)</b>	26	0.40%
<b>53220 (Greenfield)</b>	68	1.05%
<b>53226 (Wauwatosa)</b>	26	0.40%
<b>53227 (West Allis)</b>	61	0.95%
<b>53235 (St. Francis)</b>	24	0.37%
<b>53172 (Milwaukee)</b>	57	0.88%
<b>53201 (Milwaukee)</b>	1	0.02%
<b>53202 (Milwaukee)</b>	109	1.69%
<b>53203 (Milwaukee)</b>	10	0.16%
<b>53206 (Milwaukee)</b>	417	6.47%
<b>53207 (Milwaukee)</b>	68	1.05%
<b>53208 (Milwaukee)</b>	440	6.82%
<b>53212 (Milwaukee)</b>	364	5.65%
<b>53215 (Milwaukee)</b>	208	3.23%
<b>53216 (Milwaukee)</b>	451	7.00%
<b>53218 (Milwaukee)</b>	622	9.65%
<b>53224 (Milwaukee)</b>	386	5.99%
<b>53228 (Milwaukee)</b>	21	0.33%
<b>53233 (Milwaukee)</b>	129	2.00%
<b>53234 (Milwaukee)</b>	2	0.03%
<b>53244 (Milwaukee)</b>	0	0.00%

<b>53204 (Milwaukee)</b>	237	3.68%
<b>53205 (Milwaukee)</b>	84	1.30%
<b>53210 (Milwaukee)</b>	432	6.70%

**Hope House:** Hope House provides rental assistance and case management for households facing evictions and housing instability that currently are receiving rental assistance either through the City of Milwaukee Housing Authority or the Milwaukee County Housing Authority. Hope House received a total of \$2,250,000 with \$200,000 of that amount going towards administrative costs. Due to the specific nature of this population as well as the increased documentation, it is expected that funds will be available in this contract into the fall. Hope House has currently spent \$205,274 of rental assistance funds from March through May. Demographic data is not yet available at the time of this report submission but will be provided to the board as soon as it is available.

The remainder of the funds are allotted towards Milwaukee County administrative costs and other housing related expenses that are allowed through these funds. This includes additional temporary staff for the Energy Assistance Program, billable time for existing Housing Division staff, and additional funds for the Division’s internal prevention work. It is anticipated that these funds will be fully utilized during the grant period.

***Additional ERA Funding***

The State of Wisconsin has also contributed an additional \$12.6 million from its ERA funding. This contract was approved by the County Board in May and will assist with payments to continue this program through the summer. Future updates to the County Board will include activity under this contract.

Related File No’s:	
Associated File No’s (Including Transfer Packets):	<a href="#">21-477</a>
Previous Action Date(s):	

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

The coordination and leveraging of Emergency Rental Assistance funding to prevent evictions in Milwaukee County is aligned with determining what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

This item is informational and has no fiscal effect.

**TERMS**

N/A

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

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**PREPARED BY:**

James Mathy, Administrator, Department of Health & Human Services – Housing Division

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health & Human Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Felesia Martin, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, Strategic Planning Committee  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office  
Allyson Smith, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk  
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst – DAS  
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