

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

**DATE:** March 19, 2021

**TO:** Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairperson, Milwaukee County Board

**FROM:** Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by James Mathy, Housing Administrator*

**SUBJECT:** **From the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an informational report regarding the status of Milwaukee County's Eviction Prevention and Mortgage Assistance Programs funded by the CARES Act**

**Background**

As part of Milwaukee County's CARES Act allocation, the Housing Division was given approximately \$18,187,500 toward eviction prevention and mortgage assistance. Due to the loss of income many individuals encountered with the pandemic; these funds were needed to ensure families could remain in housing. Without these funds, the community would have experienced a severe increase in homelessness, exacerbated by the reduced capacity of the homeless shelters due to social distancing.

**Issue**

Milwaukee County responded to this crisis by funding payments to landlords, mortgage lenders, providing additional case management services, and providing legal assistance to those that already had evictions filed. 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 \$12.45 million. The following tables give detail on the funds spent, numbers served, and demographic data:

<b>Applications Received and Processed Metrics</b>	<b>Cumulative 12/20/20- 2/12/21</b>	<b>Cumulative 6/1/20-2/12/21</b>
Total inquiries received <i>Live Calls and Voicemails</i>	615	29,436
Website volume (January,2021)	21,816, unique visitors, 15,337 new visitors, 11,381 Rent Assistance Process pages hits	
Total applications received	946	10,474 (9824 old system, 650 New System)
Total Cases Pending	<b>1,598 cases pending</b> (857 old system +650 new system with Case Managers waiting for final approval, 91 hard copy under review with Processing Team)	
Evictions Filed	296 1/21/21- 2/5/21	6,580 6/1/20-2/5/21
<b>Direct Aid</b>		
Checks Sent MCEP 6/1/20-7/22/20	-	180
Funding Expended MCEP 6/1/20-7/22/20	-	\$304,215
<b>Checks Sent MCEP 7/23/20-2/12/21</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>4,424</b>
<b>Funding Expended MCEP 7/23/20-2/12/21</b>	<b>\$786,874</b>	<b>\$ 10,192,676</b> (\$407,324 remaining from \$10,600,000)
<b>Funding Expended MCEP Section 8</b>	-	<b>\$900,000 remaining</b>
Total Checks Sent MCEP 6/1/20-2/12/21	-	<b>4,604</b>
Total Funding Expended MCEP <b>6/1/20-2/12/21</b>	-	<b>\$10,496, 891</b>
Rent Assistance Checks Sent OTHER CA (Non-MCEP) 2020/2021	22	588
Rent Assistance Funding Expended OTHER CA (Non-MCEP) 2020/2021	\$31,194	\$629,281
Total Checks Sent	374	5,192
Total Rent Assistance Funding Expended	\$818,068	\$11,126,172

## 2020/2021 Milwaukee County Eviction Prevention Rent Assistance Demographics

	Number	Percent (%)
<b>1. Age Group:</b>		
a. 0 - 2	0	0
b. 3 - 11	0	0
c. 12 - 17	0	0
d. 18 - 20	194	2.55%
e. 21 - 35	4,304	56.65%
f. 36 - 60	2,917	38.40%
g. 61 & over	182	2.40%
h. Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,597</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>2. Gender:</b>		
a. Female	5,742	77.16%
b. Male	1,693	22.75%
c. Transgender	7	0.09%
d. Other	0	0.00%
f. Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,442</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>3. Race:</b>		
a. Asian or Pacific Islander	50	0.73%
b. Black	5,709	82.86%
c. American Indian or Alaskan Native	32	0.46%
d. White	790	11.47%
e. multi-race	192	2.79%
f. other	117	1.70%
g. Unknown	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,890</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>4. Ethnicity:</b>		
a. Hispanic	487	12.0%
b. Non-Hispanic	3,670	88.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,157</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Hope House:** Hope House provided rental assistance and case management for households facing evictions and housing instability. Through the concept of social determinates of health,

Hope House provides additional support to families after their financial crisis stabilizes. This can be through mental health services, AODA services, employment as well as any other services to assist families with the challenges that they may face. The total amount of this contract is \$2.7 million. The following are details on the funds spent, numbers served, and demographic data:

Funds spent as of 2/1/21: \$2,486,705

1,233 total participants

73% Families with 596 children, 27% singles

50% African American

24% White

13% Latinx

2% Multi-race

1% Native American

82% Extremely Low Income

10% Very Low Income

6% Low Income

**Legal Aid:** Legal Aid provided additional legal representation using Milwaukee County CARES Act funding for those facing eviction. Legal Aid also links households directly with the Eviction Prevention Program that are involved in the court system. The total amount of this contract is \$37,500.

**Housing Resources, Inc (HRI):** HRI provided mortgage assistance to households that suffered a loss of income due to the pandemic. The total amount of this contract was \$3 million. The following are details on the funds spent, numbers served, and demographic data:

Funds spent as of 2/1/21: \$1,316,813

230 households assisted

71% African American

### **Recommendation**

This is an informational report. No action is necessary.

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*

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

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Felesia Martin, Vice Chair, Health & Human Needs Committee  
Mary Jo Meyers, County Executive's Office  
Sherri Jordan, Interim DAS Director  
Kelly Bablitch, County Board  
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office  
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