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Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting retroactive authorization to execute a contract with the State of Wisconsin for \$12,666,258 in federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funding and apply for and accept an additional \$8,410,244 in direct ERA 2 federal funding, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021,” which was signed into Federal law on December 27, 2020, included \$900 billion for various Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) relief programs hereinafter referred to as “COVID-19 Relief Bill”; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Relief Bill provides \$25 billion of Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funding nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Adopted File No. 21-196, approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in February 2021, authorized the allocation of \$10.6 million in Federal ERA funding from the United States (U.S.) Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to Milwaukee County, and after launching the program on March 1, 2021, with its partner providers, the Housing Division, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is expecting that the majority of funds will be expended by June 1, 2021, with the program having served 1,749 households to date; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin (the State) Department of Administration (DOA) desires to expend a portion of its allocation received under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 for the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance for the purpose of providing rental and utility assistance to certain low-income residents of the State affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Federal guidance states that the ERA funding may be used for rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, and other expenses related to housing incurred due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State has approved a sub-award to DHHS in the amount of \$12,666,258 for eligible activities; and

WHEREAS, State DOA has indicated that it is likely to award additional funding to DHHS out of its Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 earmark to be used for the same purpose, and this funding must be expended on a timely basis as funds are available through September 30, 2022; and

45 WHEREAS, in addition, DHHS was just recently notified of the availability of
46 \$8,410,244 in direct ERA 2 funding from the U.S. Treasury, and submitted an
47 application for such funding; and

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49 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of May 13, 2021,
50 recommended adoption of File No. 21-447 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

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52 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
53 hereby authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to
54 retroactively accept Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funding from the State of
55 Wisconsin (the State) and United States (U.S.) Department of the Treasury (Treasury);
56 and

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58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
59 and the Office of the Comptroller are authorized and directed to process an
60 administrative appropriation transfer to recognize \$12,666,258 of ERA from the State,
61 and \$8,410,244 in ERA 2 funding from the U.S. Treasury; and

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63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes the use of ERA
64 funding for eligible activities under the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Relief Bill,
65 including rental assistance, rent arrears, utilities, home energy costs, and other eligible
66 expenses; and

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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board retroactively authorizes DHHS,
69 DAS, Corporation Counsel, the Risk Management Division-DAS, Community Business
70 Development Partners-DAS, the Office of the Comptroller, and County Executive to
71 prepare, review, approve, and execute all contracts and other documents, and take all
72 actions required for the purpose of administering the above-referenced ERA Program
73 funded by the \$12,666,258 COVID-19 Relief Bill allocation, ERA 2 funds of \$8,410,244,
74 and any future allocations DHHS may receive for this program; and

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76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes DHHS to accept any
77 additional allocations from the State, as well as direct Federal allocations it receives for
78 this limited-term program following the procedures outlined in this resolution; and

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80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, DHHS shall provide monthly informational reports
81 to the County Board, detailing expenses charged and participants served, and any
82 supplemental appropriations that have been allocated to Milwaukee County under the
83 ERA Program.

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