

## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	<b>21-202</b>	Meeting:	<b>May 10, 2021</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>34</b>	Roll Call:	<b>21-0701</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Chris Johansen, Neighborhood Services Department Director</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Approve application to the U.S. Department of Treasury for the second round of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

### SYNOPSIS:

Under the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Treasury has been authorized to implement a second round of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), which assists households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Des Moines is one (1) of three (3) eligible local governments in the State of Iowa for this funding. This Council action authorizes submission of the City's second ERAP application, signing another agreement with the U.S. Department of Treasury, and signing an amendment to the existing contract with IMPACT Community Action Agency for administration of the first round of ERAP funds. The exact amount available to the City is currently unknown.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: To be determined.

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Treasury

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Eligible grantees in the State of Iowa include Linn County, Polk County, and the City of Des Moines. The State of Iowa also has funding to distribute across the balance of state.
- The first round of ERAP, where the City received \$6.4 million in funding, is underway. IMPACT Community Action Agency is administering the program for both the City and Polk County. IMPACT expects the first round of ERAP funds for both entities to last until mid-June.
- Interested residents may access the online application link at [www.impactcap.org/erap-online](http://www.impactcap.org/erap-online) or by calling (515) 518-4770.

- Of awarded funds, 90% must be used for direct financial assistance, including rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing. Remaining funds are available for housing stability services, including case management and other services intended to keep households stably housed, and administrative costs.
- An “eligible household” is defined as a renter household in which at least one (1) or more individuals meets the following criteria:
  1. Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19.
  2. Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
  3. Has a household income at or below 80% of the area median.
- Eligible households may receive up to 15 months of assistance.
- Rent arrears, households with an individual who has been unemployed for the 90 days prior to application for assistance, and households with income at or below 50% of the area median are to be prioritized for assistance.
- An application for rental assistance may be submitted by either an eligible household or by a landlord on behalf of that eligible household.
- Households will be directed to apply through IMPACT Community Action Agency, which already has policies, procedures, and a duplication of benefits system established regarding emergency housing assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: January 11, 2021

Roll Call Number: [21-0026](#)

Action: [Application](#) to the U.S. Department of Treasury for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. ([Council Communication No. 21-020](#)). Moved by Gray to adopt. 1. Allocate and advance \$100,000 of the US Department of Treasury Funding to the Eviction Prevention Program at the Justice Center. A. Allow funds to be utilized while staff and Polk County Housing Trust Fund get the contract in place. 2. Allocate the remaining funds to IMPACT for continuation of their rental assistance program in accordance with US Department of Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program guidelines. A. Advance up to 10% of the US Department of Treasury Funds to allow the program to begin. B. Allow funds to be utilized while staff and IMPACT get the contract in place. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).