



Legislation Text

File #: 21-6579, **Version:** 1

Department: County Administration

Department Head/Elected Official: David Berry, County Administrator

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Regular RCA

Type of Request: Contract - Amendment

Project ID (if applicable): pending

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): BakerRipley

MWDBE Participation (if applicable): N/A

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):

Request by the Office of County Administration for approval of an amendment to the contract with BakerRipley in the additional amount of \$2.2M for the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Background and Discussion:

In January 2021, the U.S. Treasury Department established the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program to provide funding to state and local governments to assist eligible renter households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, funded via the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Commissioners Court established the 2021 Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program on February 9, 2021, in collaboration with the City of Houston. The program administrators are BakerRipley, Catholic Charities, and The Alliance.

Additional funding was allocated to the ERA program via the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), and subsequently allocated to state and local governments. Harris County received the first 40% of allocated funding in May and the remaining 60% in early September. As of November 10th, 2021, the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program has pledged and provided more than \$247M in rental assistance to nearly 64,000 eligible households.

Expected Impact:

The contract amendment will provide an additional \$2M in rental assistance to continue to support eligible Harris County tenants experiencing housing insecurity due to COVID-19. The amendment also includes \$200K for BakerRipley for application processing and payment, data management and duplicate payment analysis and recoupment. Funding for this amendment will be fully provided by the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury ARPA ERA2 Funds.

Alternative Options: N/A

Alignment with Goal(s):

- ☐ Justice and Safety
☒ Economic Opportunity
☒ Housing
☐ Public Health
☐ Transportation
☐ Flooding
☐ Environment
☐ Governance and Customer Service

Prior Court Action (if any):

Date	Agenda Item #	Action Taken
2/9/21	21-134	2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program Approval and Contract Award to BakerRipley and Catholic Charities
3/9/21	21-885	Approval of ERAP Navigator Agency Contracts
5/25/21	21-2485	Amendment of BakerRipley ERA1 Contract
6/8/21	21-2771	Approval of ERA2 Contracts with BakerRipley and Catholic Charities
6/8/21	21-2770	Approval of ERA2 Contract with The Alliance
9/14/21	21-4893	Amendment of BakerRipley and Catholic Charities ERA2 Contracts

Location: Countywide

Address (if applicable): N/A

Precinct(s): Countywide

Fiscal and Personnel Summary				
Service Name	2021 Emergency Rental Assistance	FY 21-22	Estimates	
			FY 22	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures				
Labor Expenditures		-	-	-
Non-Labor Expenditures		2,200K	-	-
Total Incremental Expenditures		2,200K	-	-
Funding Sources (General Fund, PIC Fund, Debt or CP, Grants, or Other - Please Specify)				
Existing Budget	American Rescue (2651)	2,200K	-	-
	Choose an item.	-	-	-
	Other:	-	-	-
Total Current Budget		2,200K	-	-
Additional Budget Requested	Choose an item.	-	-	-
	Choose an item.	-	-	-
	Other:	-	-	-

Total Additional Budget Requested	-	-	-
Total Funding Sources	2,200K	-	-
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Implementation Date: 11/30/2021

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: COVID-19 related item

Contact(s) name, title, department:

Leah Barton, Managing Director, Office of County Administration

Janet Gonzalez, Sr. Manager, Office of Management and Budget

Attachments (if applicable): Contract amendment to follow