



Legislation Text

File #: 22-2551, **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): 22GEN0684

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable): BakerRipley

MWDBE Contracted Goal (if applicable): N/A

MWDBE Current Participation (if applicable): N/A

Justification for 0% MWDBE Participation Goal: N/A - Goal not applicable to request

Request Summary (Agenda Caption):

Request by the Office of County Administration for the approval of an amendment to the agreement with BakerRipley in the amount of \$8.2M for eviction intervention services via the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program, funded by reallocation of U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance funds from other jurisdictions.

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.

Jurisdictions across the country were required to meet performance benchmarks for ERA1 funds by September 2021 or risk recoupment. The US Treasury initiated a reallocation process from underperforming jurisdictions to those demonstrating on-target performance and ongoing need. Harris County met performance targets and was therefore eligible to receive reallocated funds. We were awarded \$8.6M in Round 1 of the ERA1 reallocation in December 2021. A funding request for Round 2 of ERA1 reallocation was submitted in January and on March 14, 2022, the County was notified that we were awarded \$8.9M. Funds were received on April 1, 2022.

Expected Impact:

In February 2022, in response to limited remaining funding and rising eviction cases, the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program shifted to an eviction intervention model. The requested amendment will provide an additional \$7.5M in rental assistance to support eligible Harris County tenants in active eviction proceedings. The amendment also includes \$711k for BakerRipley for application processing

and payment, technology, and other program development costs. Funding for this agreement will be fully provided by the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury CAA ERA1 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
11/30/21	21-6579	Second amendment of BakerRipley ERA2 Contract
3/8/2022	22-1722	Approval of ERA1 Contract with The Alliance
3/22/2022	22-2117	Second amendment of BakerRipley ERA1 Contract

Location:

Address (if applicable):

Precinct(s): Countywide

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name	Emergency Rental Assistance Program		
	SFY 22	FY 23	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$8,210,500	\$	\$
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$8,210,500	\$	\$

Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Grant	\$8,210,500	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$8,210,500	\$	\$
Additional Budget Requested			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$	\$	\$
Total Funding Sources	\$8,210,500	\$	\$
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Implementation Date: 4/26/2022

Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note: COVID-19 related item

Contact(s) name, title, department:

Leah Barton, Managing Director Strategic Initiatives, Office of County Administration

Janet Gonzalez, Director of Budget and Performance, Office of Management and Budget

Attachments (if applicable): Contract amendment to follow