



Legislation Text

File #: 22-5367, **Version:** 1

Department: County Administration

Department Head/Elected Official: David Berry

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Regular RCA

Type of Request: Contract - Amendment

Project ID (if applicable): pending

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 approval of an amendment to the rental assistance (ERA1) agreement with BakerRipley in the amount of \$1,447,736 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 was awarded a total of \$17.5 million in Rounds 1 and 2 of ERA1 reallocation, and recently \$1.5 million in Round 3.

Expected Impact:

The requested amendment will provide an additional \$1,332,000 in rental assistance to serve approximately 240 eligible Harris County households in active eviction proceedings. The amendment also includes \$115,736 for BakerRipley for application processing and disbursement of rental assistance. Funding for this agreement will be fully provided by the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury CAA ERA1 Funds.

Alternative Options:

The ERA1 agreement with BakerRipley must be amended to utilize all reallocated ERA1 funds that have been awarded to Harris County by the grant deadline of December 29, 2022.

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
5/25/21	21-2485	First amendment of BakerRipley ERA1 contract
3/22/22	22-2117	Second amendment of BakerRipley ERA1 Contract
4/26/22	22-2551	Third amendment of BakerRipley ERA1 Contract
6/28/22	22-3848	Fourth amendment of BakerRipley ERA1 Contract

Location:

Address (if applicable):

Precinct(s): Countywide

Fiscal and Personnel Summary			
Service Name	Emergency Financial Assistance		
	SFY 22	FY 23	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$	\$1,447,736	\$
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$	\$1,447,736	\$
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Grant	\$	\$1,447,736	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$1,447,736	\$

Additional Budget Requested			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$	\$	\$
Total Funding Sources	\$	\$1,447,736	\$
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			
Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Court Date: September 13th, 2022

Anticipated Implementation Date (if different from Court date):

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