



Legislation Text

File #: 23-0549, **Version:** 1

Department: County Administration

Department Head/Elected Official: David Berry

Regular or Supplemental RCA: Regular RCA

Type of Request: Contract - Award

Project ID (if applicable):

Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable):

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 a data sharing agreement with Princeton University and its Eviction Lab to obtain the County's data related to the Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program to assess the impact of receiving rental assistance on eviction outcomes.

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. 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.

The Eviction Lab will compare ERA applications from the program to local eviction records to assess whether those who received assistance were at lower risk of eviction filing or judgment than those who applied for ERA but did not receive it. This research can provide insights into the effectiveness of rental assistance in promoting housing stability and the characteristics of renters who benefited most from the program.

Expected Impact:

Outside of minor administrative tasks performed by County staff and program partners, there is no expected fiscal impact.

Alternative Options:

If agreement is not approved, Harris County will not participate in the Eviction Lab's research project.

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

Location:

Address (if applicable): N/A

Precinct(s): Countywide

Fiscal and Personnel Summary

Service Name			
	FY 23	FY 24	Next 3 FYs
Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Non-Labor Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Total Incremental Expenditures	\$	\$	\$
Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)			
Existing Budget			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Current Budget	\$	\$	\$
Additional Budget Requested			
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Choose an item.	\$	\$	\$
Total Additional Budget Requested	\$	\$	\$
Total Funding Sources	\$	\$	\$
Personnel (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs)			

Current Position Count for Service	-	-	-
Additional Positions Requested	-	-	-
Total Personnel	-	-	-

Anticipated Court Date: January 31st, 2023

Anticipated Implementation Date (if different from Court date): February 6th, 2023

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, Sr. Director of Budget and Performance, Office of Management and Budget

Attachments (if applicable): Data use agreement and Schedule A project summary