



TO: LINDA GORTON, MAYOR
URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM: CHARLIE LANTER, COMMISSIONER
HOUSING ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: February 26, 2024

SUBJECT: Authorization to execute a Purchase of Service Agreement with Northern Kentucky Legal Aid Society, Inc. DBA Legal Aid of the Bluegrass to provide housing stability services and pay rent assistance on behalf of eligible families participating in eviction diversion mediation sessions with the Lexington Housing Authority

Request: Council Authorization to execute a Purchase of Service Agreement with Northern Kentucky Legal Aid Society, Inc. DBA Legal Aid of the Bluegrass (Legal Aid) and allocate funds not to exceed \$200,000.00 for the provision of housing stability services and payment of rent assistance on behalf of eligible families participating in eviction diversion mediation sessions with the Lexington Housing Authority.

Purpose of Request: The Department of Housing Advocacy and Community Development seeks to invest in sustainable housing stability services to help the most vulnerable residents of Lexington, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, find long-term housing stability. At Council's request, the Department has identified additional funding to continue the eviction diversion mediation program operated by Legal Aid. All of this additional funding will be utilized for the payment of rent assistance on behalf of residents of the Lexington Housing Authority who are at risk of being evicted. Subject to Council's approval, Legal Aid's continued payment of rent assistance through this program will be funded by interest earned from the Housing Stabilization Program's federal Emergency Rental Assistance grant.

The agreement with Legal Aid will be for a fixed term, beginning on March 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025.

What is the cost in this budget year and future budget years? The allocation not to exceed \$200,000.00 in the proposed agreement with Legal Aid anticipates utilizing interest earned from the Housing Stabilization Program's federal Emergency Rental assistance grant. Upon Council's approval, an initial allocation of \$100,000.00 will be made to Legal Aid for FY24, with a further allocation anticipated in FY25, subject to Council's approval at that time.

Are the funds budgeted? A budget amendment is in progress.

File Number: 0230-24

Director/Commissioner: Wright/Lanter