



TO: LINDA GORTON, MAYOR
URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM: CHARLIE LANTER, COMMISSIONER
HOUSING ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

DATE: April 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Authorization to execute sub-recipient agreements with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass and Kentucky Equal Justice Center to provide housing stability services through the Housing Stabilization Program for tenants facing potential eviction

Request: Council authorization to execute sub-recipient agreements with Northern Kentucky Legal Aid Society, Inc. (dba Legal Aid of the Bluegrass) and Office of Kentucky Legal Services Programs, Inc. (dba Kentucky Equal Justice Center) and allocate \$1,899,853.00 of Emergency Rental Assistance grant funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for the provision of housing stability services through the Housing Stabilization Program for tenants facing potential eviction.

Purpose of Request: Since January 2021, LFUCG has received Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) funds totaling over \$63 million from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to provide rental and utility assistance to eligible residents of Fayette County, including an award of reallocated ERA funds received by LFUCG in December 2022 in the amount of \$15,757,841.65. The Department of Housing Advocacy & Community Development administers spending of these funds through the Housing Stabilization Program. Day-to-day operation of the program is carried out by sub-recipient organizations.

Following the receipt of additional ERA funding in December 2022, LFUCG solicited bids (via RFP #12-2023) for one or more sub-recipients to provide housing stability services intended to keep Lexington residents facing a high risk of eviction stably housed. Following evaluation of the responses received and negotiations with the successful bidders, the sub-awards below will be made upon approval by Council:

- Legal Aid of the Bluegrass - \$819,473 to provide housing stability services, including eviction mediation or similar eviction diversion activities, expanded access to legal counsel for tenants, and housing navigation or other similar case-management related to housing stability; and, \$100,000 to provide direct financial assistance for the payment of rent and other eligible expenses on behalf of tenants participating in eviction mediation.
- Kentucky Equal Justice Center - \$980,380 to provide housing stability services, including data collection and reporting on tenants facing eviction, tenant outreach and early connection to safety net resources, asset mapping of programs and resources that support tenants facing eviction, and expanded access to legal counsel for tenants.

These sub-recipient agreements will be for a fixed term, beginning on the date of execution and ending on December 31, 2024.

What is the cost in this budget year and future budget years? The \$1,899,853.00 allocation in the proposed sub-recipient agreements is funded entirely by federal grant funds. Any funds unspent in FY23 will remain available for spending in FY24 until December 31, 2024 or the expiration of any extension granted by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Are the funds budgeted? Yes, 3230-160201-0001-71101; CV_EARP_2021

File Number: 0401-23

Director/Commissioner: Wright/Lanter

