

AD HOC ON COVID-19 RECOVERY AND NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT relative to reopening the Emergency Rental Assistance Subsidy Program (ERAP) application portal to assist low income tenants with rental arrears and placement on the waitlist.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Martinez - O'Farrell):

INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) to reopen the ERAP rental assistance housing application portal in order to allow low-income tenants and working families who are unable to pay their rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic to be placed on the ERAP waitlist.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY:

At a special meeting held on August 24, 2021, the Ad Hoc on COVID-19 Recovery and Neighborhood Investment Committee considered Motion (Martinez - O'Farrell) instructing the LAHD to reopen the ERAP application portal to assist low income tenants with rental arrears and placement on the waitlist.

According to the Motion, the City's ERAP program allowed City of Los Angeles residents to apply for assistance until the application deadline of April 30, 2021. However, after the closure of the application period, the state of California approved changes to state legislation regarding eviction protections. Currently, under AB 832 subsection 1179.11, a tenant is protected from eviction until March 31, 2022 as long as they can provide proof of a pending rental assistance application.

As a result of the application period closure, no new tenants are able to apply for rental assistance, many of whom are working families and low-wage workers. Opening the application once more will allow these new tenants, in need of rental assistance to apply to be on the waitlist. As long as they are on the waitlist, they are guaranteed eviction protections until the March 31, 2022 deadline.

After providing an opportunity for public comment, the Committee recommended to approve on consent Motion (Martinez - O'Farrell). This matter is now submitted to the Council for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 RECOVERY AND NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT

| MEMBER | VOTE |
|----------------|-------------|
| MARTINEZ: | YES |
| HARRIS-DAWSON: | ABSENT |
| PRICE: | YES |
| CEDILLO: | ABSENT |
| O'FARRELL: | YES |

LC 08/24/21

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-