

AD HOC

COVID

MOTION

The State of California recently approved the nation's largest rent relief program in the country, with over 5.2 billion dollars being allocated for 100% of back-rent and assistance for landlords and renters. Officially labeled "Housing is Key," the program furthers the goals identified in the first round of rental assistance, which was highly informed by the initial Los Angeles rent subsidy program. The Los Angeles rent subsidy program was the largest in the nation, appropriating over 100 million dollars in direct aid. The new State program once again helps renters and landlords across California directly impacted by COVID-19.

Collectively, Los Angeles residents have the highest concentrated need in the entire state. The Los Angeles Housing Department is the City's lead agency with respect to the new State program and the department must be fully prepared to serve Angelenos filing for the state subsidy the moment the program goes live. Already, Council Offices and other city agencies are receiving requests from residents for rental assistance and guidance.

The Los Angeles Housing Department should report back immediately with a clear and helpful plan that meets the moment to provide direct assistance and information to all Angelenos. Although radio, television, and internet announcements will be key in disseminating information, the City portal will handle tens of thousands of requests to help verify eligibility requirements. We need assurances that the City is prepared the moment the State begins processing requests. Importantly, the department must also take into account costs to the City, including staffing and workforce challenges that exist due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City must apply the best method in order to identify the need, and deliver assistance to the City's residents in the most efficient, impactful and equitable manner possible.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Housing Department report to Council with recommendations to effectuate the "Housing is Key" State of California COVID-19 Rent Relief program meant to help renters and landlords to apply for and receive the State sponsored 100% rent buy-back assistance.

Presented By:


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AUG 03 2021

