

MOTION

Through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) was allocated 3,365 Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) to assist individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness or fleeing domestic violence/human trafficking with rental assistance.

The EHV Dashboard (<https://tinyurl.com/dashboardehv>) provides updates on leasing, issuance and unit utilization on voucher awards and funding by Public Housing Authorities, including HACLA, and as of March 15, 2023, 1,388 EHV participants have leased a unit, and there are 2,625 EHV participants with vouchers not yet leased. After September 30, 2023 EHV's will not be re-issued, and there is an urgency to assist individuals with EHV's with housing navigation and lease up.

EHV's were administered through a direct referral process with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and LAHSA Matchers reviewed EHV applications for eligibility, targeting, equity and accuracy prior to submitting to HACLA. HACLA processes EHV applications and issues EHV's. Once a unit has been identified, HACLA requires landlords to complete a Request for Tenancy Approval along with other additional documents, and will reach out to the landlord to schedule an inspection and execute the contract. After all these steps have been completed the EHV participation will then be able to sign a new lease to move in.

The pace in which EHV's are completing the lease up process and the lack of communication between agencies is concerning, as hundreds of EHV's are now expiring or have expired. Many participants with EHV's require additional housing navigation support such as transportation to view units and financial assistance with rental applications, deposits and landlord incentives. Currently, housing navigation services are limited and LAHSA has directed prioritizing housing navigation slots based on document readiness, length of stay, and towards voucher holders as one strategy to provide additional support to EHV participants.

Housing navigators and housing case managers assisting EHV participants often are only able to communicate with HACLA case managers via email and when HACLA case managers change, housing navigators/case managers assisting EHV participants have had to experience sending documents multiple times to different HACLA case managers, causing additional delays. Housing navigators/case managers have experienced ambiguity and inconsistency in HACLA's process related to appealing or correcting decisions made and for requesting EHV extensions. Most importantly, housing navigators/case managers nor EHV participants are notified in advance of expiring EHV's or that EHV's have expired.

I THEREFORE MOVE to request HACLA to report within 15 days on improving communication between HACLA case managers and EHV participants and the housing navigators/case managers inclusive of addressing staff transition, a more responsive appeals process, updates on pending status, notification for expiring EHV's, and additional ways to contact HACLA staff.




MAR 15 2023

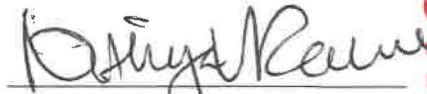
I FURTHER MOVE to request LAHSA to report within 15 days on how housing navigation services are allocated throughout the LAHSA system and how many are allocated to each interim site, and how these services are prioritized.

I FURTHER MOVE to request HACLA and LAHSA to review EHV's that have expired and/or will be expiring and report within 15 days on how requests for extensions will be processed and fulfilled.

I FURTHER MOVE for the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of HACLA, LAHSA and Los Angeles Housing Department, to report within 15 days on recommendations to improve the EHV issuance, lease up and extension process to align with the City's goals.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 7th District


NITHYA RAMAN
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL