

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF \$631,000 TO SAMARITAN HOUSE, OPERATING AS THE FISCAL AGENT FOR THE CORE SERVICE AGENCIES, TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND APPLICANT ASSISTANCE FOR THE STATE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260), which was signed into law on December 27, 2020, allocates federal funds to assist in the recovery from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including \$25 billion for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program administered by the U.S. Treasury Department (“Federal ERAP”); and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Treasury has allocated Federal ERAP funds to each state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, based on population, and cities and counties with more than 200,000 residents, like San Mateo County, were eligible to receive a direct allocation of Federal ERAP funds; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2021, the County received from the federal government \$22,791,546.60 as its direct allocation of Federal ERAP funds; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill (“SB”) 91, which took effect immediately and extends until June 30, 2021 the eviction and foreclosure protections previously established in Assembly Bill 3088 (“AB 3088”), and provides additional eviction and debt protections for qualifying

tenants; and

WHEREAS, SB 91 also appropriates \$1.5 billion in Federal ERAP funds allocated to the State (i.e., Federal ERAP funds that were not directly allocated to larger jurisdictions within the State) to implement a new Statewide Emergency Rental Assistance Program (the “State ERAP”); and

WHEREAS, the County’s share of State Emergency Rental Assistance Program (State ERAP) funding (authorized under SB 91) is \$24,529,226.48; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SB 91, on February 9, 2021, the Board of Supervisors authorized the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to administer, on behalf of the County, the County’s share of State ERAP funding as well as the direct allocation the County received under the Federal ERAP as rental assistance, utility assistance and assistance with other permissible related housing expenses to eligible County residents; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for this assistance, a household must have a member who qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a financial hardship related to COVID-19, demonstrate being at risk of housing instability or homelessness, and have a household income below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI); and

WHEREAS, in addition, the State ERAP guidelines prioritize funds to the following groups in the following order: (1) households with incomes of less than fifty percent (50%) of AMI; (2) residents of communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19; (3) all other eligible households with incomes less than eighty percent (80%) of AMI; and

WHEREAS, the State ERAP also provides that participating property owners receive eighty percent (80%) of unpaid rent owed by qualifying tenants accrued from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021, and by accepting the ERAP funds, property owners agree to credit 100% of the rental arrears owed by their tenant for the award period; and

WHEREAS, to administer the State ERAP, HCD contracted with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), a national nonprofit community development financial institution; and

WHEREAS, to provide community-based outreach and client support, LISC is partnering with local agencies in each county that has opted to have the State administer the county's share of State ERAP funding on the county's behalf; and

WHEREAS, in San Mateo County, Samaritan House (on behalf of the eight Core Service Agencies), Project Sentinel, Nuestra Casa, Bay Area Community Services, and International Rescue Committee, Inc. are the LISC partner agencies; and

WHEREAS, based on the demographics in the County, many applicants may require application assistance due to language barriers, understanding the submission requirements, technology assistance, or uploading documents into the State's application portal; and

WHEREAS, although grants of \$125,000 were requested for each of eight Core Service Agencies, the State only approved one allocation of \$125,000 to Samaritan House as the fiscal agent for all the Core Service Agencies, which is

inadequate to provide the support that the County's most vulnerable residents will need to successfully complete a State ERAP application; and

WHEREAS, the Core Service Agencies developed an outreach and assistance plan for State ERAP with a budget of \$1,150,000, and the plan includes additional time-limited staff to provide hands-on support in appropriate languages for State ERAP applicants; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the \$125,000 in LISC funding, Samaritan House was awarded \$394,000 in SMC Strong funds from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) to support State ERAP outreach and client assistance by all the Core Service Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the LISC and SVCF funding together total \$519,000, which leaves \$631,000 of the outreach and assistance plan budget unfunded; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that enough resources are available, it is recommended that the Board approve an allocation of \$631,000 to Samaritan House, operating as the fiscal agent for the Core Service Agencies, for ERAP outreach and client support; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be reimbursed to the Core Service Agencies through Samaritan House based on actual expenses, and less support is needed for the State ERAP, then the total expenditure may be less than \$631,000; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2021, the Board authorized and directed the County Manager, or designee(s), acting in consultation with the County Counsel, to

negotiate and execute, on behalf of the County, appropriate agreements with the County's Core Service Agencies, other local non-profit organizations and/or other entities for the provision of technical assistance, education and outreach, and other services to facilitate HCD's administration and disbursement of emergency rental assistance on behalf of eligible households in the County under the State ERAP; and

WHEREAS, upon the Board's approval of the proposed funding allocation, the County Manager, or designee, on behalf of the County, will negotiate and execute a contract with Samaritan House, as the fiscal agent for the Core Service Agencies, in a total amount not to exceed \$631,000 for continued support of State ERAP outreach and client assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED THAT the Board authorizes the allocation of \$631,000 to Samaritan House, operating as the fiscal agent for the Core Service Agencies, to provide community outreach and applicant assistance for the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the County Manager, or designee(s), is hereby authorized to apply state and/or federal funds that may be made available in connection with the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic to reimburse the County's General Fund for all or a portion of monies allocated to Samaritan House, operating as the fiscal agent for the Core Service Agencies, to provide community outreach and applicant assistance for the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

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