

\$1 Million Contribution to the County Emergency Financial Assistance Program

Peggy Jensen, Deputy County Manager

June 29, 2021

County Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA)

- Eligibility is household income < 60% AMI, demonstrated COVID impact and need, citizenship not required
- Funding
 - \$15 million allocated/donated during pandemic, including \$4 million from the County
 - \$3 million balance remains
- Grants for rent, utilities and other necessary household expenses
- Administered by the Core Services Agencies
- Managed by the Human Services Agency

Federal and State Emergency Rental Assistance (ERAP)

- Eligibility is < 80% AMI, COVID impact and risk of homelessness
- ***Grants can cover 100% of rent arrears plus some forward rent***
- County opted into state administered program
- Local ERAP partners: Core Agencies, Nuestra Casa and Project Sentinel
 - Outreach and application assistance
- Ineligible Applicants
 - Subleasees
 - Households with “shadow debt”

Terms for Administration of the Added Funds

- Funds may only be used for expenses not eligible for ERAP assistance, cause of ineligibility must be documented
- Grantees must meet all County program criteria
- Remaining EFA funds must be used first
- Unused EFA funds to be returned to the County by December 31, 2022 or the end of ERAP, whichever is sooner

Funding

- Total request is \$1,150,000
 - \$1,000,000 for EFA rent assistance
 - \$150,000 for Samaritan House administration
- Source is General Fund, unless other funds become available for this use in the future

Questions?



Recommendation

Adopt a resolution:

- A) Authorizing the contribution of an additional \$1,000,000 to the San Mateo County Emergency Financial Assistance Program, comprised of funds from sources determined by the County Manager, for the provision of emergency assistance grants to residential tenants who have suffered a negative economic impact due to the COVID-19 public health emergency that affects or affected their ability to remain stably housed and the economic impact is not eligible for assistance from the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program; and
- B) Authorizing and directing the County Manager, or designee(s), to negotiate and execute an agreement with Samaritan House to administer the additional \$1,000,000 contributed to the Emergency Financial Assistance Program in exchange for an administrative fee of \$150,000 with a term that ends three months after the State Emergency Rental Assistance Program ends or December 31, 2022, whichever is earlier.