



Legislation Text

File #: 0909-2021, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND: This legislation authorizes the Director of Development to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Columbus Urban League (CUL) in an amount up to \$3,000,000.00 of federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds to provide rental and utility assistance for expenses starting March 13, 2020.

Ordinance 0284-2021 authorized the City of Columbus to accept and appropriate \$26,822,803.20 of federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program funds, as passed by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. Of this amount, \$3,000,000.00 will be used for a subrecipient agreement with CUL to provide rental and utility assistance (as defined by U. S. Treasury) to qualifying residents of the local community for up to 12 months plus an additional three months, if necessary, to ensure housing stability.

In this subrecipient agreement, at least 60% of the funding will support households with an AMI at 50% or below and/or have a member of the household who has been unemployed for 90 days; up to 40% of the funding can be used for households with an AMI at 80% or below; and 10% of the funding will be utilized for Administrative costs.

CUL will manage a program to provide rental and utility assistance to residents in the local area who qualify for the assistance as provided in the laws regulations and other current guidance provided by the U. S. Department of Treasury. It is expected that the guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury will be modified while this subrecipient agreement is in effect and it is requested that the Director of Development be given the authority to modify the scope of services and/or terms and conditions subrecipient agreement without seeking additional Council Approval in order to align with the most current version of the laws, regulations, and guidance.

The mission of the CUL is to empower African Americans and disenfranchised groups through economic, educational, and social progress. The CUL is a customer-driven organization advocating to empower individuals and deliver transformational services with integrity, innovation, and collaboration.

The CUL's three core strategies empower the community and drive economic transformation, foundational education, and family stabilization. The organization uniquely responds to the crises that trap families in poverty holistically, using intelligence, compassion, innovation, and an understanding that comes only from having truly walked a mile in their client's shoes.

The services included in this subrecipient agreement cannot be provided by existing city employees because these services are beyond the City's current staffing capacity to provide.

Emergency action is requested to address the impacts of the COVID-19 health emergency.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding is provided to the City of Columbus from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 passed by Congress and signed into law December 27, 2020, and is available in the department's ERA budget.

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE: the vendor's vendor number is 006073 and is valid from 4/24/2020-4/24/2022

To authorize the Director of Development to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Columbus Urban League in an amount up to \$3,000,000.00 to provide rental and utility assistance (as defined by U. S. Treasury) to qualifying residents of the local community; to authorize the Director of Development to modify the scope of services and/or terms and conditions of the subrecipient agreement as needed in order to align with the most current version of the laws, regulations, and guidance without seeking further City Council approval; to authorize payment of expenses starting March 13, 2020;

and to declare an emergency (\$3,000,000.00)

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Development desires to enter into a subrecipient agreement with the Columbus Urban League (CUL) and authorize payment of expenses beginning March 13, 2020, to provide rental and utility assistance (as defined by U. S. Treasury) to qualifying residents of the local community for up to 12 months; and

WHEREAS, at least 60% of the funding will support households with an AMI at 50% or below and/or have a member of the household who has been unemployed for 90 days; up to 40% of the funding can be used for households with an AMI at 80% or below; and 10% of the funding will be utilized for Administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury will be modified while this subrecipient agreement is in effect and it is requested that the Director of Development be given the authority to modify the scope of services and/or terms and conditions of the subrecipient agreement without seeking additional Council Approval in order to align with the most current version of the laws, regulations, and guidance; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the CUL is to empower African Americans and disenfranchised groups through economic, educational, and social progress and the CUL is a customer-driven organization advocating to empower individuals and deliver transformational services with integrity, innovation, and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in much needed assistance when low income households have seen significant decreases in personal income due to COVID-19 and the public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, expenditure of ERA funding to provide low income households with financial assistance is necessary to address reduced income needed to pay rent and utility expenses caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, such expenditure of funds has not been previously accounted for in the 2021 Budget; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the City in that it is immediately necessary to enter into a subrecipient agreement with CUL to address the impacts of the COVID-19 health emergency, all for the preservation of the public health, peace, property, safety and welfare; and **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1: That the Director of the Department of Development is hereby authorized to enter into a subrecipient agreement with Columbus Urban League in an amount up to \$3,000,000.00; is authorized to make payment for expenses starting March 13, 2020, for the purpose of providing rental and utility assistance (as defined by U. S. Treasury) to qualifying residents under the guidance of the Emergency Rental Assistance program authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 passed by Congress and signed into law December 27, 2020; and is authorized to modify the scope of services and/or terms and conditions of the subrecipient agreement as needed in order to align with the most current version of the laws, regulations, and guidance without further City Council approval.

SECTION 2: That the expenditure of \$3,000,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed is hereby authorized in Fund 2208 (ERA Fund), Dept-Div 44-10 (Housing Division), in object class 03 (Services) per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

SECTION 3: Funds are hereby deemed appropriated and expenditures and transfers authorized to carry out the purposes of this ordinance and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 4: That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts or contract modifications associated with this legislation.

SECTION 5: That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is

declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.