



County of Albany

Harold L. Joyce
Albany County Office
Building
112 State Street - Albany,
NY 12207

Legislation Text

File #: TMP-2508, **Version:** 1

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Description (e.g., Contract Authorization for Information Services):

Contract Authorization for Social Services (ERAP Grant)

Date: 5/24/2021
Submitted By: Joseph DeAngelis
Department: Social Services
Title: Contract Administrator
Phone: 518-447-7583
Department Rep.
Attending Meeting: Click or tap here to enter text.

Purpose of Request:

- ☐ Adopting of Local Law
- ☐ Amendment of Prior Legislation
- ☐ Approval/Adoption of Plan/Procedure
- ☐ Bond Approval
- ☐ Budget Amendment
- ☐ Contract Authorization
- ☐ Countywide Services
- ☐ Environmental Impact/SEQR
- ☐ Home Rule Request
- ☐ Property Conveyance
- ☒ Other: (state if not listed) Accept ERAP Allocation from NYS

CONCERNING BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Increase/decrease category (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Contractual
- ☐ Equipment
- ☐ Fringe
- ☐ Personnel

- ☐ Personnel Non-Individual
☒ Revenue

Increase Account/Line No.: See Attached Spreadsheet
Source of Funds: US Treasury via NYS
Title Change: Click or tap here to enter text.

CONCERNING CONTRACT AUTHORIZATIONS

Type of Contract:

- ☐ Change Order/Contract Amendment
☐ Purchase (Equipment/Supplies)
☐ Lease (Equipment/Supplies)
☐ Requirements
☐ Professional Services
☐ Education/Training
☒ Grant

Choose an item.

Submission Date Deadline Click or tap to enter a date.

- ☐ Settlement of a Claim
☐ Release of Liability
☐ Other: (state if not listed) Click or tap here to enter text.

Contract Terms/Conditions:

Party (Name/address):

Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
40 N Pearl St, Albany, NY 12207

Additional Parties (Names/addresses):

Click or tap here to enter text.

Amount/Raise Schedule/Fee: \$906,175.32

Scope of Services: This grant is made available to conduct outreach and enrollment services to households at risk of eviction or utility shut off due to Covid. DSS and subcontractors will market the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and assist households to apply through the NYS portal.

Bond Res. No.: Click or tap here to enter text.

Date of Adoption: Click or tap here to enter text.

CONCERNING ALL REQUESTS

Mandated Program/Service: Yes ☐ No ☒
If Mandated Cite Authority: Click or tap here to enter text.

Is there a Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐Anticipated in Current Budget: Yes ☐ No ☒County Budget Accounts:

Revenue Account and Line: A 6010.4612

Revenue Amount: \$906,175.32

Appropriation Account and Line: A 6010.4086

Appropriation Amount: \$906,175.32

Source of Funding - (Percentages)

Federal: 100%

State:

County:

Local:

Term

Term: (Start and end date) 1/1/2021-9/30/2022

Length of Contract: 21 Months

Impact on Pending LitigationYes ☐ No ☒If yes, explain: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)Previous requests for Identical or Similar Action:

Resolution/Law Number: 22, 148

Date of Adoption: 2/2/2021, 5/10/2021

Justification: (state briefly why legislative action is requested)

Albany County seeks to participate in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) managed by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). ERAP is a federal assistance program to prevent utility cut off and eviction of households with financial hardship due to the Covid pandemic. DSS and partners will provide community outreach to hardest hit households to help them enroll in the OTDA created application portal. OTDA will oversee the application portal and process applications for assistance, verify eligibility criteria, determine eligibility and provide financial assistance directly to landlords and utility companies for this Program. The total allocation has been set aside exclusively for Albany County to conduct outreach and engagement.

An ERAP eligible household is defined as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

1. Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
2. Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
3. Has a household income at or below 80 percent of Area Median Income.

Eligible households that include an individual who has been unemployed for the 90 days prior to application for assistance; households with income at or below 50 percent of Area Median Income will be prioritized for assistance. DSS will be targeting households with under 50% AMI to engage those most at risk for eviction

The poorest in our community and most vulnerable come to DSS for assistance. DSS has an Emergency Team who will be well informed about ERAP and assist in enrolling the most at-risk tenants. DSS is also working with community providers with extensive experience assisting very low income households with housing issues. We have contracted with two specific partners to assist in our outreach and assistance efforts: United Tenants of Albany and Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York. United Tenants has a hotline familiar to and

utilized by low income households. Legal Aid works with low income individuals and the courts to prevent evictions.

Information, materials and links are found on the OTDA website and will be highlighted on the County Website. Assistance will be provided to tenants in gathering documentation required under ERAP and helping to bridge technology issues that may occur among vulnerable populations not accustomed to navigating an on-line portal. If landlords or tenants are experiencing difficulty accessing the portal or completing the application, assistance will be provided by DSS and our partner agencies.

An application for rental assistance may be submitted by either an eligible household or by a landlord on behalf of that eligible household. In general, funds will be paid to the landlord or utility service provider.