



County of Albany

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

Legislation Text

File #: TMP-2760, **Version:** 1

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

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

Grant Acceptance for Social Services (ERAP 2)

Date: 9/22/2021
Submitted By: Joseph DeAngelis
Department: Social Services
Title: Contract Administrator
Phone: 518-447-7583
Department Rep.
Attending Meeting: Michele G. McClave

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) Request to accept OTDA grant

CONCERNING BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Increase/decrease category (choose all that apply):

- ☐ Contractual
- ☐ Equipment
- ☐ Fringe
- ☐ Personnel
- ☐ Personnel Non-Individual

☐ Revenue

Increase Account/Line No.: Click or tap here to enter text.
Source of Funds: Click or tap here to enter text.
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

Acceptance

Submission Date Deadline Click or tap to enter a date.

- ☐ Settlement of a Claim
- ☐ Release of Liability
- ☐ Other: (state if not listed)

Contract Terms/Conditions:

Party (Name/address):

**Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
40 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207**

Additional Parties (Names/addresses):
Click or tap here to enter text.

Amount/Raise Schedule/Fee: Click or tap here to enter text.
Scope of Services: Click or tap here to enter text.

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: Click or tap here to enter text.

Revenue Amount: Click or tap here to enter text.

Appropriation Account and Line: Click or tap here to enter text.

Appropriation Amount: Click or tap here to enter text.

Source of Funding - (Percentages)

Federal: 100%

State: Click or tap here to enter text.

County: Click or tap here to enter text.

Local: Click or tap here to enter text.

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: 203

Date of Adoption: 7/12/21

Justification: (state briefly why legislative action is requested)

Via Resolution 203 adopted 7/12/21 Legislative approval was granted to the Albany County Department of Social Services (DSS) to contract with the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) administrative services to utilize DSS personnel and expertise to provide ERAP information and assistance to households at risk of eviction.

Subsequent to this approval, an additional amount of federal dollars has been allocated to Albany County. DSS is requesting to accept an amount of \$375,000 to sub contract with Legal Aid Society (\$125,000) and to utilize \$250,000 for DSS to continue providing ERAP related outreach and engagement services.

Albany County seeks to participate in the second round of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP2) managed by the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). ERAP2 is a federal assistance program to prevent utility cut off and eviction of households with financial hardship due to the Covid pandemic. DSS will collaborate with Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY to provide legal assistance to ERAP applicants and also assist them with accessing the NYS portal for benefit submission. DSS will also provide information to landlords on assistance available both through ERAP and through other state funded programs. OTDA oversees the application portal and process applications for assistance, verifies and determines eligibility and provides 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.

DSS expects the need for eviction prevention services will continue through 2022. This additional administrative funding will allow us to continue to raise awareness of available assistance and help landlords and tenants navigate the ERAP programs. DSS will also continue working with community providers with extensive experience assisting very low-income households with housing issues. We have partnered with Legal Aid Society to assist in our outreach and eviction prevention efforts.

Additionally, Legal Aid will continue to work with low-income individuals as they navigate evictions in the courts.

Information, materials and links are found on the OTDA website and 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 agency.

An application for rental assistance may be submitted by an eligible household or by a landlord on behalf of that eligible household. Landlords will be able to submit an application for a supplemental fund established by NYS. In general, funds will be paid directly to the landlord or utility service provider.