

RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 22

RESOLUTION EXPANDING AND REVISING THE PINELLAS COUNTY
EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Pinellas County (County) received \$21,428,218.80 of emergency rental assistance funds under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (ERA1) and \$24,395,835.40 of emergency rental assistance funds (ERA2) from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ERA2); and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Petersburg (City) received \$8,012,455.90 of ERA1 funds and \$6,339,881.40 ERA2 funds; and

WHEREAS, ERA1 and ERA2 funds may be used to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the County and City closely coordinated and implemented an Emergency Rental Assistance Programs (ERAP) together on March 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the County and the City entered into separate agreements with Tetra Tech Inc to provide emergency rental assistance program administration; and

WHEREAS, the City has expended all ERA1 funds and will expend all ERA2 funds on or before March 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the County has expended all ERA1 funds and has a remaining balance of ERA2 funds available for emergency rental assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City has requested the County expand the County ERAP to include income-eligible households located within the City of St. Petersburg geographical boundaries of Pinellas County that are at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City has agreed to provide city staff for the review of all applications submitted by residents of the city at no cost to the County; and

WHEREAS, ERA1 and ERA2 funds were allocated to eligible units of local government based on overall population; and

WHEREAS, twenty-seven-point two percent (27.2%) of the total County population resides in the city of St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, forty-three-point two percent (43.2%) of low- and moderate-income census tract block groups in Pinellas County are within the city of St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, the County has agreed to expand the ERAP eligible area to include the city of St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, households that reside in hotels and motels are not currently eligible for the Pinellas County ERA program; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury Department guidelines permit ERA2 funds to be used for other expenses related to housing including hotel and motel expenses; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, in a public meeting duly assembled this 8 day of March, 2022, that:

- 1) The geographic area of eligibility for the Pinellas County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is expanded to include the boundaries of the County inclusive of the municipality of St. Petersburg. The program revision shall be retroactively implemented to include applicants that have applied to the City for assistance. The County Administrator is authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City for this purpose.
- 2) The County Administrator is authorized to modify the Pinellas County Emergency Rental Assistance Program to assist households that reside in hotels and motels for a period not to exceed 120 days. Households must meet income eligibility and all other Treasury Department guidelines and regulations.

Commissioner Flowers offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Gerard, and upon roll call the vote was:

AYES: Justice, Eggers, Flowers, Gerard, Peters, and Seel.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: Long.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Donald S. Crowell
Office of the County Attorney