

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

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SUBJECT: STATUS OF APPLICATION SUBMISSION TO TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (TDHCA) FOR TEXAS EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TERAP) RESPONDING TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

On November 23, 2020, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) notified entitlement communities, including Fort Worth, of an additional allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) CARES Act funds available to communities in the state of Texas who have existing COVID-19 rental assistance programs and have indicated an interest to participate in the Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (TERAP).

TERAP provides rental assistance to income-eligible households impacted by COVID-19 to help them stay housed during the pandemic. The program can pay up to six months of an eligible household's rent, including rental arrears, with at least one of those months covering a month of future rent. As a set-aside within the program, 10% of funds are specifically earmarked to provide the Texas Eviction Diversion Program (TEDP) which provides rental assistance to tenants who have been sued for eviction, providing the landlord and tenant an alternative to eviction.

Funds allocated to the City of Fort Worth, totaling \$1,840,489.70, including a 10% allocation for administrative expenses of \$184,048.98, require submission of an application to TDHCA. The application opened on December 1, 2020, and is due on December 28, 2020. Neighborhood Services Department plans to submit an application for the full allocation amount and partner with current subrecipient agencies to administer the program. This includes direct allocation of funds to approximately five (5) public service agencies that have recently applied for and/or been awarded CARES Act funding through one or more of the following programs: CDBG-CV, ESG-CV, ESG-CV2, CDBG-CV3, NGO.

Contract start date for these funds is January 15, 2021. An M&C to be posted on the January 26, 2021 City Council agenda is underway to ratify and accept the award of funding, as well as designate the partner agencies to be considered for funding.

David Cooke
City Manager