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DATE: February 11, 2021

TO: SCAC Housing and Transportation Committee

FROM: Jannette Revilla on behalf of Zulima Lundy (OCHCA)

SUBJECT: Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA)

The US Department of Treasury allocated \$65.5M to the County of Orange for the implementation of the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program.

The ERA Program:

- Provides funding to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Must largely be used for direct financial assistance, including rent, rental arrears and utilities, and home energy costs.
- A maximum of 10% of the ERA Program funds may be used towards administrative costs and housing stability services, including case management.

The County’s ERA Program will provide a maximum financial assistance of \$10k per eligible household to pay for rental arrears and past due utilities.

Eligible Households for ERA Program assistance are defined as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

- i. Qualified for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
- ii. Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability;
- iii. Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income (AMI); and
- iv. Assistance is not duplicative of any other federally funded assistance.

Applications will be accepted from February 1 to February 28, 2021.

Note: The cities of Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Irvine received direct allocations from the US Department of Treasury and are running their own programs. Rental households located in one of these three cities will be referred to their rental household city of resident for more information about their city’s ERA program.



The statute does not allow for ERA Program assistance to be provided to homeowners and past due mortgage payments, utilities or energy costs; it is solely to be used for renter households.

Contact Information:

If someone you know would benefit from accessing the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and homelessness prevention services, please use the following contact information for more information and to complete the application process:

- **Call 2-1-1**
- **Text ERA to 898211;**
- **Or visit: www.ERA.211oc.org**

More information, including the flyers can be found in the following website:

https://www.ochealthinfo.com/occ/emergency_rental_assistance_program

**Flyers are available in several languages.*