



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 31, 2022

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: Jan Lesher 
County Administrator

Re: **Emergency Rental Assistance Program October Update**

Attached please find the latest update of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) from Community & Workforce Development (CWD) Director Daniel Sullivan.

It details the tremendous reach of Federal ERAP resources in this community since these funds first began to flow. To date 6,527 households were served by Pima County and we have obligated in excess of \$28 million in federal dollars. This memorandum also notifies the Board of the very timely federal reallocation of another \$15 million by Treasury in support of this critical service. These resources extend the life of this program until March at the current level of service demand. We have requested an additional \$12 million in federal resources to take us to the end of the fiscal year at which time this program will have to be scaled down significantly or allowed to expire.

I have asked CWD staff to develop policy options that may include a locally funded scaled-back rental assistance program for your future consideration.


JKL/dym

Attachment

c: Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator
Daniel Sullivan, Director, Community & Workforce Development

Date: October 27, 2022

To: Jan Leshar
County Administrator

From: Dan Sullivan 
Community & Workforce Development
Director

Francisco García
Deputy County Administrator and Chief
Medical Officer

Re: **Emergency Rental Assistance Program October Update**

Pima County's currently available Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funding continues to serve our community at a robust level. Below is a breakdown showing initial allocations and reallocations already received, along with amounts expended for each:

	Funds Allocated	Funds Expended	Percentage Obligated	Percentage Expended	Households Served
ERAP1	\$15,188,622.60	\$15,188,622.60	100%	100%	2,443
ERAP1 Reallocation 1	\$11,000,000.00	\$10,180,081.68	99%	93%	1,728
ERAP1 Reallocation 2	\$6,000,000.00	\$1,587,022.07	68%	26%	697
ERAP2	\$12,018,046.20	\$9,955,046.13	95%	83%	1,659

On July 12, 2022, Pima County submitted a request to the United States Treasury for a reallocation of an additional \$15 million in ERAP2 funding initially allocated to the State of Arizona. This request was submitted with the support of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES). On October 24, 2022, Pima County received written confirmation from Treasury that the requested \$15 million reallocation from ADES was approved.

Our team continues to see approximately 100 inquiries per day. This demand has remained steady and we are obligating funds at \$3.5 million per month. At this burn-rate we expect the additional \$15 million in funding to carry us into March 2023.

Accordingly, I have discussed with ADES leadership the prospect of supporting a second ERAP2 reallocation that would allow the program to continue in its current form through the end of the fiscal year. The funding necessary to accomplish that would be an additional \$12 to \$15 million. Regardless, we anticipate the State will wind down funding by the end of the fiscal year. Without ADES reallocated funds, any eviction assistance program will have to be scaled down substantially or shut down by end of the summer.

I am unaware of any discussions at the state or federal levels to earmark additional funds for rent and utility assistance. Community & Workforce Development does have non-pandemic related rent and utility assistance programs. However, these funds are only in the amount of \$4.1 million per year, are heavily restricted, and are not sufficient to meet the level of demand based on a potential economic downturn and the downstream adverse impact on housing stability.

For this reason, we are developing policy options for the Administrator and the Board of Supervisors to consider that may include a locally funded and scaled-back rental assistance program. This program may be designed to pay fewer months of back rent and may require participation in CWD workforce programs, or other programs designed to improve financial stability.