



City of Kansas City, Missouri

Docket Memo

Ordinance/Resolution #: 250902

Submitted Department/Preparer: Housing

Revised 6/10/24

Docket memos are required on all ordinances initiated by a Department Director. More information can be found in [Administrative Regulation \(AR\) 4-1](#).

Executive Summary

Establishing an Emergency Rental Assistance Program for qualified tenants participating in the Right to Counsel Program; authorizing the Manager of Procurement Services to execute various funding agreements in accordance with this Ordinance; authorizing the Director of Housing and Community Development to expend up to \$940,000 from funds previously appropriated in the General Fund; and directing the Director of Housing and Community Development to report annually to the Mayor, City Manager, and City Council on the program's effectiveness.

Discussion

Committee Substitute for Ordinance 211067 established the Right to Counsel Program, providing free representation to low-income tenants facing eviction in Kansas City. This program is a successful and critical intervention for tenants most at risk of eviction, displacement, and homelessness.

Previously, Right to Counsel attorneys have successfully utilized federally funded rental assistance programs as leverage to negotiate more favorable outcomes for tenants facing eviction. However, federally funded emergency rental assistance programs created during COVID-19 are expiring, requiring the City to replicate similar programs using local funds.

Coordinating the Right to Counsel Program with a locally funded emergency rental assistance program creates an organized eviction mitigation strategy, which helps tenants avoid the long-term negative consequences of eviction while providing them with alternative solutions that serve their housing needs. It also helps property owners resolve disputes between tenants outside of eviction court, saving property owners time and resources while allowing them to capture the full value of their property, and reduces the administrative burden of scheduling, hearing, and adjudicating eviction cases in court.

United Way of Greater Kansas City successfully collaborates with Right to Counsel attorneys to provide case management and emergency rental assistance for current participants, and First Call Technologies currently provides call routing and data tracking services for the Right to Counsel Program, and provided a similar service for the City's federally funded emergency rental assistance program. These organizations are uniquely qualified to provide similar services for this new program.

Fiscal Impact

1. Is this legislation included in the adopted budget? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. What is the funding source?
General Fund
26-1000-551008-619080
3. How does the legislation affect the current fiscal year?
This legislation allocates \$940,000.00 of previously appropriated funding to two organizations, United Way of Greater Kansas City and First Call Technologies, to establish a Targeted Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
4. Does the legislation have a fiscal impact in future fiscal years? Please notate the difference between one-time and recurring costs.
This is a recurring cost, with funds set aside in the Housing and Community Development Department budget.
5. Does the legislation generate revenue, leverage outside funding, or deliver a return on investment?
N/A

Office of Management and Budget Review

(OMB Staff will complete this section.)

1. This legislation is supported by the general fund. ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. This fund has a structural imbalance. ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Account string has been verified/confirmed. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Discussion (if needed)

This legislation will use previously appropriated funds in the General Fund to support the program in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Citywide Business Plan (CWBP) Impact

1. View the [Adopted 2025-2029 Citywide Business Plan](#)
2. Which CWBP goal is most impacted by this legislation?
Housing and Healthy Communities (Press tab after selecting.)
3. Which objectives are impacted by this legislation (select all that apply):
 - ☐ Utilize planning approaches in neighborhoods to reduce blight, ensure sustainable housing, and improve resident wellbeing and cultural diversity.
 - ☒ Maintain and increase affordable housing supply to meet the demands of a diverse population.
 - ☒ Address the various needs of the City's most vulnerable population by working to reduce disparities.
 - ☐ Foster an inclusive environment and regional approach to spur innovative solutions to housing challenges.
 - ☒ Ensure all residents have safe, accessible, quality housing by reducing barriers.
 - ☐ Protect and promote healthy, active amenities such as parks and trails, play spaces, and green spaces.

Prior Legislation

Ord. 211067

Service Level Impacts

N/A

Other Impacts

1. What will be the potential health impacts to any affected groups?
No
2. How have those groups been engaged and involved in the development of this ordinance?
N/A
3. How does this legislation contribute to a sustainable Kansas City?
n/a

4. Does this legislation create or preserve new housing units?
No (Press tab after selecting)

Click or tap here to enter text.

5. Department staff certifies the submission of any application Affirmative Action Plans or Certificates of Compliance, Contractor Utilization Plans (CUPs), and Letters of Intent to Subcontract (LOIs) to CREO prior to, or simultaneously with, the legislation entry request in Legistar.

No - CREO's review is not applicable (Press tab after selecting)

Please provide reasoning why not:

Click or tap here to enter text.

6. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from an Invitation for Bid?

No(Press tab after selecting)

Click or tap here to enter text.

7. Does this legislation seek to approve a contract resulting from a Request for Proposal/Qualification (RFP/Q)?
No(Press tab after selecting)