

MOTION


In November 2022, City voters approved the United to House LA (ULA) ballot measure. ULA mandates 11 programs intended to increase the production and preservation of affordable housing, as well as address housing insecurity and homelessness in the City. One of these programs, the Short-Term Emergency Assistance program, aims to stabilize low-income tenants at risk of losing their housing due to one-time economic shocks and may cover the entirety of rent payments for up to 6 months.

In October 2023, with funding allocated from the Short-Term Emergency Assistance program, the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) launched the ULA Emergency Renters Assistance Program (ERAP). ERAP allowed qualifying renters and property owners to apply for up to 6 months of unpaid rent. LAHD contracted with the Southern California Housing Rights Center, which collected applications for the program from September 19, 2023 until October 31, 2023. As specified by LAHD's publicly accessible dashboard detailing ULA ERAP data, the program received a total of 31,380 applications. Of these, the total number of households that received assistance was 4,302, with payouts totalling \$30,396,497.

According to LAHD, there are approximately 230 ERAP applicants that were approved for rental assistance, but due to a lack of sufficient funds available for the program, have not received any assistance. The City should make every effort to assist these renters, who may have been depending on ERAP funds for housing stability. It is the responsibility of the City to do everything in its power to prevent Los Angeles's most vulnerable tenants from falling into homelessness.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Los Angeles Housing Department to report on options to address applicants who qualified for assistance from the Emergency Renters Assistance Program, but were unable to receive financial assistance; how much it would cost to address their rental arrears; and funding options to address this matter.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

JR