

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 19, 2024

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **ARPA FY24-25 - Eviction Assistance Initiative**

The following item will appear on the January 24, 2024, agenda to be considered by City Council:

Authorize a twelve-month subrecipient agreement to serve as an extension to the contract agreement with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas to provide legal services to Dallas residential tenants – specifically in Districts 7 and 14 - at risk of eviction and homelessness due to financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for the period February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025. Not to exceed \$240,000.00 - Financing: American Rescue Plan Act Funds.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2021, the City of Dallas created the Dallas Eviction Assistance Initiative as an effort to mitigate evictions in Dallas. The initiative established an evictions assistance program to provide direct legal services to Dallas residents who experience lower-incomes as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, specifically residents at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and who are negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal of the initiative is to mitigate Dallas residents who may find themselves facing eviction and potential homelessness without the resources to retain legal representation.

On June 22, 2022, the City Council authorized a subrecipient agreement with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (511627), to provide legal services to residential tenants at risk of eviction and homelessness due to financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for the Office of Equity and Inclusion for a term of eighteen-months, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000. The contract between the City and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas was signed for the Eviction Assistance Initiative authorized by Resolution No. 22-0986.

There is a continued need for eviction assistance because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a priority to continue educating and providing legal support and representation for evictions utilizing the allocated Council District ARPA funding. As an extension of ongoing efforts, the Eviction Assistance Initiative-2 (EAI-2) has been established to continue to provide legal support to prevent evictions and assist in preventing homelessness by providing counseling and direct legal services to Dallas residents (Districts 7 and 14) facing evictions. The purpose of this initiative is to assist vulnerable Dallas tenants who are facing evictions and possible homelessness due to financial hardships exacerbated

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by the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically in Council Districts 7 and 14 through the use of their respective allocated ARPA funding. Funding allocated from District 7 (\$115,000.00) and from District 14 (\$125,000.00), in a total sum amount not to exceed \$240,000.00 for this initiative for the period February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025.

Should you have any questions or would like to provide input, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Lindsey Wilson, Director of the Office of Equity and Inclusion, at [lindsey.wilson@dallas.gov](mailto:lindsey.wilson@dallas.gov) or myself.



M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira  
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney  
Mark Swann, City Auditor  
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary  
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bazor Tolbert, Deputy City Manager  
Jon Fortune, Deputy City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Dr. Robert Perez, Assistant City Manager  
Carl Simpson, Assistant City Manager  
Jack Ireland, Chief Financial Officer  
Genesis D. Gavino, Chief of Staff to the City Manager  
Directors and Assistant Directors