

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Response Emergency Rental Assistance**

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### COVID-19 Basic Needs Coordination and Response Agenda Overview

Review of Emergency Rental Assistance Spending

• *New* Fairfax County ERA Bridge Program

Next Steps Moving Forward

# **COVID-19 Pandemic Response Emergency Rental Assistance**

Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) is the entry point for residents to access emergency basic needs, including rental and utility assistance. Expansion to include Eviction Prevention and Intervention team.

•CSP built upon its pre-pandemic rental assistance program to disburse the federal COVID-19 relief funding. CSP staff determine program eligibility but has contracted with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to process all financial payments on behalf of the County.

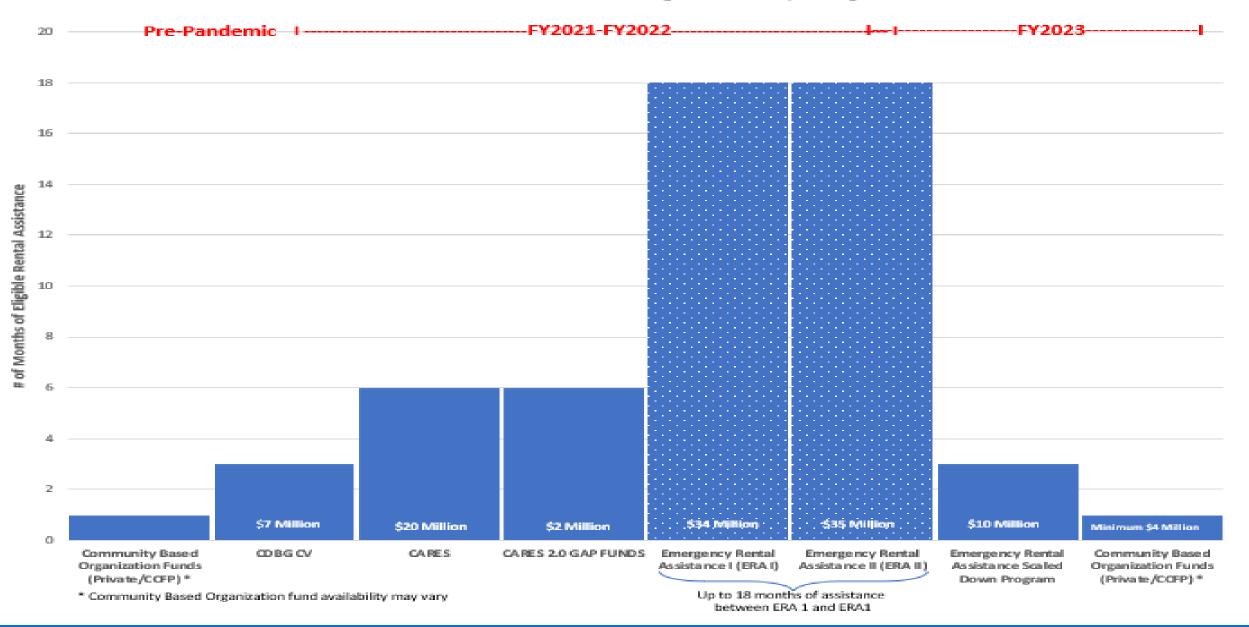
As of May 2022, CSP has disbursed \$61.3 million in ERA direct assistance funding, \$20.9 million in CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds and \$7.0 million in CDBG-COVID funds for a total of \$89.2 million in emergency rental assistance to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# **COVID-19 Pandemic Response Emergency Rental Assistance**

- •HHS staff partnered with the General District Court to facilitate support to residents facing eviction
- •HHS staff initiated numerous outreach strategies to educate renters and landlords about available assistance and how to access it to include contracting and partnering with trusted community providers.
- Landlord Application Portal was created to maximize the reach of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and plans are underway to develop a resident portal to utilize moving forward.
- Eviction Prevention Teams established to share information, identify opportunities and develop practices and strategies among HHS Staff, General District Court, Nonprofits

#### Eviction Prevention and Basic Needs Resources – Spending (As of 7/26/22)

| Funding Source  | Amounts Available for Basic Needs Assistance   | Amount<br>Disbursed for<br>Residents to<br>Date | Purpose   |
|---|--|---|---|
| CARES 1.0   | \$20,000,000   | \$19,306,139                                    | Rent, Utility, Mortgage, Food<br>and Other Basic Needs                          |
| CARES 2.0 Gap   | \$2,000,000  | \$1,624,550                                     | Mortgage, 81-100% AMI, Rent<br>and Utilities (Resident's ineligible<br>for ERA) |
| Community<br>Development Block<br>Grant (CDBG)              | \$7,900,000  | \$7,023,214                                     | Rent, Utilities   |
| Emergency Rental<br>Assistance (ERA I)                      | \$34,463,869   | \$33,347,712                                    | Rent, Utilities   |
| Emergency Rental<br>Assistance (ERA II)                     | \$35,100,967   | \$28,007,522                                    | Rent, Utilities and Other   |
| Other County and<br>Community Resources<br>(5/1/20-7/26/22) | Varied Sources- Other County and Community Based<br>Organizations funding outside of CARES or ERA –<br>(CCFP, Private CBO funding, etc.) | \$6,083,679                                     | Rent, Utilities, Other Basic Needs  |
| TOTAL   |  | \$95,392,816                                    |   |



#### **COVID-19 Basic Needs Response** Fairfax County ERA Bridge Program

ERA Bridge Program launches July 1, 2022 (once ERA funded has been exhausted)

Program Access

- Pending cases (landlords and tenants) will be processed with the remaining ERA funding
- Landlord and residents continue to apply through calling CSP and utilizing the Landlord Portal

#### Funding

- Approximately \$10 million dollars of federal funding.
- Additional Coordinated Funding to Compliment ERA Bridge Program
  - Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) Emergency Housing Funding (at least \$4Million)
  - Other Community Funding, as available

Program Eligibility

- Fairfax County residents who have lost household income due, directly or indirectly, to Covid-19
- Household income at or below 80% AMI
- 150% FMR
- Up to 3 months of assistance to maintain or secure sustainable housing
- Arrears or current months only
- Prioritization
  - Court involved cases will be prioritized to maintain housing
  - Households at or below 50% AMI

#### **COVID-19 Basic Needs Response Emergency Rental Assistance**

#### Moving Forward:

- If residents have 'maxed out' with ERA resources, they may be eligible for the ERA Bridge Program
- NCS will continue to work with the Courts to support residents in the Eviction process
- Outreach and information sharing will take place to ensure residents and landlords are aware of the ERA program ending on *June 30<sup>th</sup>* and the ERA Bridge Program. Updates will be posted online at the Eviction Prevention website.
- Beginning in FY 2024, assistance provided for emergency housing will return to pre-COVID-19 funding and operations which supports one to two months of rental assistance through the traditional CSP/CBO model.
- In addition to the Eviction Prevention website, program progress and status updates, including spending details, can be found on the county's COVID page document library: <u>HHS COVID-19</u> <u>Response Update</u>.

# **Questions**?