



Office of

Consent Agenda 08/17/2021

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ATTORNEY

Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
William K. DeBaal, Deputy County Attorney
Susan J. Prado, Assistant County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: Robin Miller, Housing Program Manager

FROM: William K. DeBaal, Deputy County Attorney *WKD*

DATE: August 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Approval of Temporary Policy Supplement for Emergency Housing Vouchers and Supporting Resolution

On July 13, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the County's Rental Assistance Program and the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc. for participation in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) for new Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). The ARP appropriated \$5 billion for new EHV to assist qualified persons with rental vouchers, security deposit assistance, moving costs, basic human services needs (beds, cooking items, toiletry items, all essential household items, etc.) and other costs depending on the applicant's needs. Eligible individuals include homeless, at risk of homelessness, recently homeless families, and those fleeing domestic violence and human trafficking. Indian River County was awarded 34 new emergency vouchers.

The COVID 19 pandemic has caused great uncertainty in the rental housing market, especially with lower income tenants who have suffered with reduced pay or lost jobs. While the federal government mandated moratoriums on evictions were recently extended for 60 days, agencies are trying to prepare for an expected surge in housing needs for low income tenants.

According to HUD guidelines, the County's Housing and Rental Assistance Department meets the definition of a Public Housing Agency (PHA) which makes the County eligible for federal housing funds. The Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc., (Treasure Coast) has been a long-time advocate and source of support for the homeless in our community. By partnering with the County's Rental Assistance Program, it is hoped that the broad spectrum of individuals eligible for ARP can be helped with Emergency Housing Vouchers.

In order to receive the 34 EHV's, the County must adopt, by resolution, the Temporary Policy Supplement for Emergency Housing Vouchers. The Temporary Policy Supplement, which is available for review both on line at the County's website: www.ircgov.com and in the County Commission Office, consists of six sections:

- Funding
- Partnering Agencies
- Waiting List Management
- Family Eligibility
- Housing Search and Leasing
- Use of Funds, Reporting, and Financial Records

The Policy Supplement will be the guidebook used by County's Rental Assistance Program and Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council in implementing the Emergency Housing Voucher Program.

The attached Resolution is required by HUD in order for the County and Treasure Coast to participate in the new EHV program. The Resolution adopts the Temporary Policy Supplement for Emergency Housing Vouchers.

Funding: There is no funding associated with this matter.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board approve the Resolution adopting the Temporary Policy Supplement for Emergency Housing Vouchers and authorize the Chairman to execute the Resolution on behalf of the Board.

Attachments: Resolution

Copies to: Phil Matson, Community Development Director
Robin Miller, Housing Program Manager