



Office of

Consent Agenda 07/13/2021

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

DATE: July 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc. and Indian River County, Rental Assistance for Acceptance of 34 new Emergency Housing 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. As the government mandated moratoriums on evictions are lifted, agencies are trying to prepare for an expected surge in housing needs for low income tenants. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) appropriated \$5 billion for new Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) to assist qualifying persons with rental vouchers, security deposit assistance, moving costs, basic human services needs (beds, cooking items, etc.) and other costs depending on the applicant's needs. Eligible individuals include homeless, at risk of homelessness, those fleeing domestic violence and recently homeless families.

Indian River County participates in various US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs. 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. While federal regulations govern the program, our participation satisfies the Housing Element contained in the County's Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 7.

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 captured in the ARP can be helped with Emergency Housing Vouchers.

The attached Memorandum of Understanding with Treasure Coast is required by HUD in order for the County and Treasure Coast to participate in the new EHV program. The parties have been allotted the emergency vouchers on July 1, 2021, but, per direction from HUD, it is acceptable to submit the MOU following the receipt of the 34 new vouchers.

Funding: There is no funding associated with this matter. A budget amendment may become necessary to allocate these revenues and expenses into the budget once the funding amounts are received.

Approval of MOU for 24 EHV

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Recommendation. Staff recommends the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc. and authorize the Chairman to execute the MOU on behalf of the Board.

Attachments: Memorandum of Understanding

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