



CITY OF OAKLAND

CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612
#LoveLife

REBECCA KAPLAN
Vice Mayor
District At Large

(510) 238-7008
FAX: (510) 238-6910
TDD: (510) 839-6451

Date: October 27, 2022
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Vice Mayor Kaplan & Council President Fortunato Bas
Re: **Emergency Rental Assistance**

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

The Federal and State governments have authorized funding for Emergency Rental Assistance, and Oakland has advocated for, distributed, and funded emergency rental assistance, in order to reduce displacement, human suffering and other costs that could be caused by a wave of evictions in the face of financial struggles. However, not all payments have been made, and so our community is concerned, both in terms of tenants facing the threat of eviction, displacement and homelessness, and in terms of small landlords who have not received payments, and are facing financial difficulty. This resolution calls upon the US Department of the Treasury, the Governor, and the California Department of Housing and Community Development to fully cover all pending qualifying emergency rental assistance applications.

The long-standing housing affordability crisis in California intensified in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic sparked an economic and public health crisis that threatened the housing stability and lives of millions. Low-income renters who struggled before the COVID-19 crisis were put in an even more tenuous position to pay rent due to job loss and increased expenses. Over 709,000 households are currently behind on rent in California, their rent debt totaling approximately \$2.5 billion based on analyses of rent relief distributions from the US Treasury Report and Census Household Pulse Survey Data.

In response to the growing need to support renters, help avoid financial hardships in our communities for small landlords, and prevent skyrocketing displacement and homelessness, the Federal and State governments allocated funding to establish rental assistance programs. Thus far, the City of Oakland has received millions of dollars from the State and Federal governments to support renters and landlords; however, as of mid-October 2022, there were approximately 2,900 remaining waitlist applications to process, and a total of \$9.5 to \$10.5 million to pay out for all waitlist applications.

It is of the utmost importance that landlords are provided timely payment of missing rent to prevent potential evictions and suffering for Oakland residents. This resolution calls on the US Department of the Treasury, Governor Newsom, and the California Department of Housing and Community Development to rapidly and fully cover all pending qualified emergency rental assistance applications.

Thank you for your consideration,

Vice Mayor Rebecca Kaplan

City Council
October 27, 2022
File # 22-0873