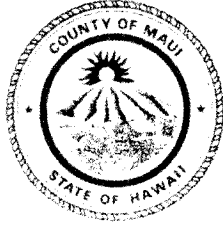


HFC-66

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

LORI TSUHAKO
Director

LINDA R. MUNSELL
Deputy Director



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2020 SEP 23 PM 2:51
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
& HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 546
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE: (808) 270-7805

September 22, 2020

Honorable Michael P. Victorino
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Michael P. Victorino 9/24/20

Mayor Date

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

2020 SEP 25 AM 10:56

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For Transmittal to:

Honorable Riki Hokama, Chair
Healthy Families and Communities Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Hokama:

SUBJECT: EVICTIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC (HFC-66)

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with the committee to discuss the above referenced item and for your letter dated September 15, 2020. The information requested in your letter is provided below.

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM (Section 8)

The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program provides rental assistance to participants based on the household's income. Participants are required to pay thirty percent (30%) of their income as their portion of their housing costs. During the pandemic, many families experienced a loss of job or a decrease in income. As their income decreased, their portion of the rent went down accordingly and the portion subsidized through the federal Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) went up.

In March at the beginning of the pandemic, the total HAP payment for the month was \$1,716,056. In August, the total HAP payment had increased to \$1,876,567, which is an increase of 9.4% in subsidy payments.

Please note that pursuant to HUD regulations, both the \$1,200 stimulus check available to tax payers in March, and the additional \$600 in weekly unemployment benefits that

ended in August, were excluded from income and were not included in calculation for the participants' portion of the rent.

In addition to the information requested in your letter, please see below for additional resources which were previously shared by the Department during the meeting of August 27, 2020.

OTHER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Below is a general description of other rental and mortgage assistance programs which are available to households who do not receive assistance through programs such as the HCV Program. The funding comes from a number of sources and through various programs

HELP1 (FY20) \$2M – County funded

HELP2 (FY21) \$3M (\$5M additional pending through the County)

Financial assistance for Maui County residents to pay for essential needs due to a layoff, reduction in hours or loss of income related to COVID-19. Assistance can be provided in the areas of food, personal hygiene, medicine, rent, mortgage, utility payments, and other essential needs. As of the end of July for both HELP-1 and HELP-2, approximately 25% of these funds went toward rent and mortgage assistance. There were 983 payments totaling \$489,482 for rent/mortgage assistance to no less than 245 households.

Rental Assistance Program (RAP) (FY21) \$2M – County funded

This program is designed to help individuals and families with assistance on rental deposit, utility deposit and rent subsidy at a declining schedule, contingent upon the applicant's circumstances. The program is part of a homelessness prevention initiative, helping residents get into and sustain permanent housing. As of the end of August 2020, the program has expended \$171,820 towards rental assistance to no less than 50 households.

HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program Tenant Based Rental Assistance \$450,000 – Federal funds (through the County Housing Division)

The HOME TBRA Program assists families with urgent housing assistance. The program is targeted toward households with incomes at or below 60% AMI. Contracts with landlords enabled all grant monies to be encumbered between June and August 2020. 33 new leases and 34 existing leases – 67 families totaling 165 residents were assisted with rent and utilities.

CDBG-CV \$1,800,000 – Federal funds (through the County CDBG Program)

CARES Act Funding provided through HUD to provide temporary rental and mortgage relief intended to assist homeless families, and to prevent families from becoming homeless. Phase I sub-recipient agreement has been signed with MEO and Family Life Center (\$1.1M). Phase II agreement is pending (\$700K). No funds have been expended through this program as yet.

DHHL COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (statewide)

Provides rental assistance provided for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Applicant Waiting List beneficiaries. Provides assistance with security deposits and/or rent for up to one year. We understand that so far 15 beneficiaries in Maui County have been assisted.

Hawaii Resilience Fund - Hawaii Community Foundation \$4.8M (statewide)

Grants from this funds are being distributed to organizations providing assistance for rent, utilities and an increased demand for food. Funding has been provided to MEO through the HELP2 program. Through the HELP program at MEO the HCF funds assisted 198 families totaling \$180,000 in rent assistance.

Rent Relief and Housing Assistance Program – Federal funding through HHFDC \$100M (statewide)

This program will assist household that have experienced job loss or reduction in income due to COVID-19. The funds will assist renters at risk of eviction and homeowners facing mortgage foreclosure. Funding through this program is expected to be available starting in mid-September.

Hale Mahaolu - \$20,000

Hale Mahaolu provides half of the rent for qualifying residents using similar qualification standards as the HELP program. MEO assist in administering these funds through the HELP Program. A total of \$19,058 has been provided for 38 households.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ext. 7805.

Sincerely



LORI TSUHAKO, LSW, ACSW
Director of Housing and Human Concerns

xc: Housing Division