

RESOLUTION R-21-019

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH; PROVIDING FINDINGS; APPROVING GUIDELINES FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM; APPROVING THE FORM OF GRANT AWARD LETTERS FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS; PROVIDING FOR REPORTING; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution and Florida Statute 125.01 authorize the County to exercise home rule powers for the health, safety and welfare of the general public; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-51, declaring that appropriate measures to control the spread of Corona Virus 2019 (“COVID-19”) in the State of Florida are necessary, and therefore directed that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. R-20-041, declaring that appropriate measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in Manatee County are necessary, and therefore directed that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the County; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency has caused disruption in Florida’s economy leading to high rates of unemployment and business closures; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, many individuals and families within the County that were already in precarious financial situations, now find themselves without funds, insurance or any other federal assistance to pay for basic utilities, rent payment, or other critical needs; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County residents are in need of assistance with rental housing payments; and

WHEREAS, the threat to these most vulnerable individuals and families constitutes a significant threat to public safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2020, Congress passed, and the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, and

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, section 501 of Division N created the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) and provided the COUNTY with approximately \$12,081,967 pursuant to the award terms for the U.S. Department of

Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance between the COUNTY and the U.S. Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) authorized the County Administrator to sign the acceptance of award terms for the U.S. Department of Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance authorizing the Department of the Treasury to make payments to the COUNTY to be used to provide emergency rental assistance; and

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2021, the U.S. Treasury Department (Treasury) issued Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments relating to payments made available under the Emergency Rental Assistance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the award terms, Emergency Rental Assistance funds allocated to the COUNTY may be used for, among other things, providing economic support to renters residing in Manatee County and its municipalities who are delinquent on rent and utility payments and are in need of housing stability payment assistance due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through grants of Emergency Rental Assistance funds issued by the COUNTY in accordance with the Emergency Rental Assistance, the award terms and US Treasury Guidance, to fund eligible expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS. The Board hereby makes the following findings:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct;
2. It is in the best interest of the County, and furthers the public health, safety and welfare of the County: (a) to approve guidelines for a US Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program (the "Program") to provide rental and utility payment assistance to qualifying residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and (b) to authorize the execution of grant award letters pursuant to the US Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance and the Program Guidelines.

SECTION 2. APPROVAL OF PROGRAM GUIDELINES. The Board hereby approves the Program Guidelines attached hereto as Exhibit "A" pursuant to and in accordance with the Act.

SECTION 3. APPROVAL OF FORM OF GRANT AWARD LETTER. The Board hereby approves the form of Emergency Rental Assistance grant award letters, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit "B" pursuant to and in accordance with the Act. The County Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized to sign such award letters pursuant to and in accordance with the US Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance and the Program Guidelines.

SECTION 4. REPORTING. The County Administrator shall annually provide a list of names, addresses and grant amounts to the Board of all awards authorized pursuant to Section 3, above.

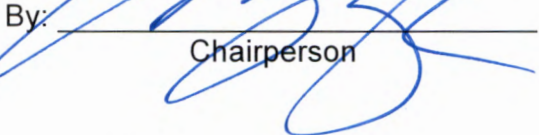
SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any section, sentence, clause, or other provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, or provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

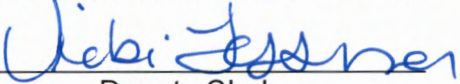
ADOPTED WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND VOTING THIS THE 26th DAY OF JANUARY 2021.



**MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

By: 
Chairperson

**ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER**

By: 
Deputy Clerk

**EXHIBIT “A”
PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

PROGRAM GUIDELINES – Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA)

The purpose of this grant is to provide funds to renters, residing in Manatee County and its municipalities, who are delinquent on rent and are in need of housing stability payment assistance due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds will be provided as a grant for rent and landlord-provided utilities for approved applicants.

To be eligible for this grant, a resident must meet the eligibility guidelines as set forth below and can file an application through an online portal with Manatee County Government.

Applicants for this program must meet income requirements and will be prioritized based upon households with income at or below 50% of the area median income or someone in the household has been unemployed for 90 days prior to the application.

Eligibility Guidelines (Documentation will be required)

- Applicant must be a US Citizen or Legal Resident Alien
- Resident of Manatee County including its municipalities
- Delinquent on rent payments due to COVID-19 (on or after April 1, 2020)
- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19 on or after April 1, 2020
- Household income is at or below the 80% area median income
- Prioritization:
 - Household Income at or below 50% area median income; or
 - Someone in a household has been unemployed for 90 days prior to the application

	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
50% AMI	\$26,800	\$30,600	\$34,450	\$38,250	\$41,350	\$44,400	\$47,450	\$50,500
80% AMI	\$42,850	\$49,000	\$55,100	\$61,200	\$66,100	\$71,000	\$75,900	\$80,800

The County Administrator may adjust these guidelines to meet the requirements of the US Treasury Guidelines for eligibility, documentation, certification, accounting and reporting of expenditures to comply with Federal requirements for Emergency Rental Assistance program expenditures.

Amount of Grant

Eligible renters may receive grant funds up to 12 months of assistance, if needed, through November 2021, whichever is less.

Eligible Uses of Grant Funds

Funds will be paid directly to the landlord.

Funds will be used for expenses incurred no earlier than April 1, 2020 and no later than November 2021.

If funds are available and there is continued impact from COVID-19, a re-certification form must be completed and signed for future rent payments.

Documentation Required

To ensure a successful grant program, compliant with federal statutes and County regulations, the following documents are required:

- Documentation of Household Income is at or below 80% AMI
 - Filed 2020 1040 IRS Tax Return, or
 - 2 months of income statements (pay stubs, unemployment compensation, retirement, Social Security) for all household members
- Documentation of COVID-19 Impact
- Formal Letter or Statement from Landlord stating amount owed
- Current lease and contact information for landlord (Landlord must agree to participate)
- Proof of identification for applicant
- Proof of US Citizenship or Legal Resident Alien for applicant
- Proof that Co-Applicant resides in the household, as applicable
- If Landlord is applying on behalf of tenant, must include a signed ERA Tenant Authorization Form

If selected for assistance, applicant and co-applicant must sign the documents below:

- Authorization to Release Information to Manatee County
- Affidavit of Duplication of Benefit Agreement
- Affidavit of Income and Financial Impact from COVID-19

Funding Source

U.S. Department of Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance set forth in Section 501 of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260.



EXHIBIT "B"
FORM OF AWARD LETTER

Redevelopment and Economic
Opportunity Department
Community Development Division
P.O. Box 1000
Bradenton, FL 34206 Phone:
(941) 749-3029

DATE, 2021

Applicant Name
Address
Address

RE: Notification of Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Grant Award for #Case Number
Property Address: Address Dear Applicant Name:

Your funding request for rent assistance due to financial loss from the COVID-19 pandemic has been approved. It has been determined that you meet all the requirements for an ERA grant award.

The terms for the assistance you will receive are:

X Grant Award. A grant award in an amount *not to exceed* the actual amount required to be paid on your behalf toward rent and landlord-provided utilities, or the maximum amount allowed under the program guidelines whichever is less. At no time shall the assistance exceed 12 months of assistance.

Please be advised that this funding notification is contingent upon the following criteria:

1. **Recipient signs the Affidavit of Duplication of Benefits.**
2. **Recipient (and Co-Recipient, if applicable,) signs the Affidavit of Income and Impact from COVID-19.**
3. **Recipient (and Co-Recipient, if applicable,) signs the Authorization to Release Information to Manatee County.**

If you are facing eviction or in need of legal assistance with the eviction moratoriums, please contact Gulfcoast Legal Services for assistance at <https://gulfcoastlegal.org/request-assistance> or contact the Bradenton office at (941)746-6151.

If you have not returned to work and would like assistance, please contact CareerSource Suncoast to review the available training programs that you may qualify for at <https://careersourcesuncoast.com/training/>. You can also submit an on-line Inquiry/Request for Contact at <http://careersourcesuncoast.com/retrainmanatee> or contact a Career Coach at (941) 358-4200 x2174.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please feel free to contact Reviewer Name, at the Manatee County Emergency Rental Assistance line at (941)745-6270.

Sincerely,

Designated Signatory

JAMES SATCHER REGGIE BELLAMY KEVIN VAN OSTENBRIDGE MISTY SERVIA VANESSA BAUGH CAROL WHITMORE GEORGE KRUSE
District 1 District 2 District 3 District 4 District 5 At Large At Large