

Dr. Debra Y. Brooks

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Debra Y. Brooks, Ed.D., Executive Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success Room 345, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 22-0128R– Investigational Hearing – Emergency Rental Assistance Program		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

October 31, 2022

The Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success (MOCFS) is herein reporting on City Council Bill 22-0128R, Investigational Hearing – Emergency Rental Assistance Program, the purpose of which is inviting representatives from city agencies to discuss the use of Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds including the declination of ERAP funds by landlords and management companies in Baltimore City.

Background

Since June 2020, MOCFS has partnered with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services to implement a multi-agency approach to administering a comprehensive rent assistance program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 10 families were behind on rent and faced the unfortunate possibility of eviction. The pandemic caused those numbers to rise to 1 in 3 families by June 2020. In response, federal, state, and local dollars were leveraged to develop a program that is equitable, low-barrier, and accessible to ensure constituents remained housed.

MOCFS received \$82 million dollars in local, state, and federal funding to prevent a potential eviction crisis resulting from the impacts of COVID-19. As of August 2022, \$57 million has been disbursed, 73% of total funding.

Programmatically, MOCFS has been working in partnership with United Way of Central MD, Public Justice Center, Southeast Community Development Corporation, CASA de Maryland, and The Latino Economic Development Center to provide comprehensive services allowing the program to offer a bulk payment approach to landlords, legal services, and reach the Latinx community. Partnerships with community agencies were also leveraged to add staff capacity to the Pandemic Rent Court Program. Additionally, MOCFS has developed the following auxiliary programs to support vulnerable populations impacted by landlords declining to participate in the program: 1) direct to tenant payment, 2) a relocation program, and 3) security deposit assistance.

MOCFS welcomes the opportunity to be a part of this very important discussion on the use of Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds in Baltimore City.

Conclusion

The Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success will attend the hearing for this resolution and respond to any subject matter inquiries.

cc: Faith Leach
Natasha Mehu
Nina Themelis