

**Legislative Joint Fiscal Committee
Roll Call Votes
2021-2022**

Meeting Date: 14 Dec 2022

Action Item: Agenda Item B ERAP Transitional Horsings

MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Rep. Janet Ancel	✓			
Sen. Becca Balint <u>Baruth</u>	✓			
Rep. Tim Briglin	✓			
Sen. Ann Cummings				✓
Rep. Peter J. Fagan, Clerk	✓			
Sen. M. Jane Kitchel, Vice-Chair	✓			
Rep. Emilie Kornheiser	✓			
Sen. Dick Sears, Jr.	<u>ON Zoom</u>			
Sen. Richard Westman	✓			
Rep. Mary S. Hooper, Chair	✓			

Notes: Motion Sen Kitchel Seconded Rep Fagan
→ See Attachment labeled "Draft Motion
Agenda Item B: ERAP 1 Fund Distribution and
Reconciliation" ←

Updated 09/17/2021

Approved 8-0-2

Draft Motion

JFC Meeting
14 Dec 2022

Agenda Item B: ERAP 1 Fund Distribution and Reconciliation

EXPLANATION:

This amendment reflects the reduction in funding available to Vermont in ERAP I grants from \$200,000,000 to \$168,826,860.80 and updates expenditure estimates by category. This proposal amends a February 11, 2021 JFC motion.

Sen/Rep XXXX moves that the grant acceptance motion as passed by the Joint Fiscal Committee on February 11, 2021 related to Grant #3034 to the VT Agency of Administration (AOA) from the US Dept of Treasury, Emergency Rental Assistance Program I (ERAP I) be amended as follows:

1. Agencies are allocated \$168,826,860.80 ~~the funds~~ consistent with the following distribution and reconciliation plan:
 - A. PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION AND RECONCILIATION PLAN (GRANTS PROGRAM BUDGET):
 - i. Up to \$120,000,000.00 ~~\$110,000,000.00~~ to AOA to grant to the Vermont State Housing Authority (VSHA) to implement a modified version of their existing Rental Housing Stabilization Program (RHSP). This program will be implemented via a MOA between AOA, VSHA, and DHCD. It is further provided that the Agencies shall establish procedures that housing units assisted with ERAP funding follows VT's Life Safety Code requirements; and procedures to ensure rent is not increased, as a result of receiving ERAP funding for the period of assistance. The participating landlords shall be encouraged to engage in weatherization activities and programs.
 - ii. Up to \$15,000,000 ~~\$12,700,000.00~~ to PSD to implement a modified version of their existing utility assistance program. This ~~would~~ includes creation of two limited service positions; a Consumer Affairs and Information Specialist and a Benefits Program Administrator.
 - iii. Up to \$40,000,000 ~~\$15,000,000.00~~ to AHS to assist homeless individuals, those exiting homelessness, and implement other such programming as becomes allowable under federal guidance. This includes over \$4,800,000.00 of subgrants for "housing stability services" as defined by the U.S. Treasury in ERA-FAQ-7.27.22.pdf (treasury.gov) FAQ 23. This ~~would~~ includes creation of two limited service positions; a Financial Manager II, and a Community Services Program Manager.
 - iv. Up to \$3,085,000 ~~\$9,000,000.00~~ to DHCD for "~~other housing services~~" "housing stability services" as defined by the Act, ~~which pending Treasury Guidance,~~ U.S. Treasury which may include tenant and landlord counseling and mediation services such as those administered by Vermont Legal Aid, and the Vermont

Landlord's Association, and to other programs which may become viable upon further guidance from the U.S. Treasury. This ~~would~~ includes creation of one limited service position; a Grants Specialist.

v. ~~\$53,300,00.00 to AOA to hold in reserve to allocate to programs in need of additional funds, and/or to programs which may become viable pursuant to evolving U.S. Treasury guidance.~~

B. ~~Any expenditures from the \$53,300,000 held in reserve at the Agency of Administration may only be spent based on legislative appropriation. The Agency of Administration may adjust any of the allocations during the final reconciliation process to ensure the entirety of the federal award is expended.~~

C. ~~Any reallocations between and among subsections i through iv must be approved by the Joint Fiscal Committee. The Agency of Administration shall provide a final reconciliation report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on these funds as well the allocation of any subsequent ERAP II grant funds expended via authorization of the Commissioner of Finance and Management under excess receipts authority (32 V.S.A. § 511).~~

Motion Needed: To update allocations from the original JFC ERAP approval in February 2021. See passed motion link below.
<https://file.vermont.gov/assets/Meetings/Janet-Fiscal-Committee/2021-02-11/9655-567c7d1Final-Motion-to-Approve-JFC-Grant-3034.pdf>

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Funding Summary

Organization	ERAP 1 Timeline - 9/30/2022		ERAP 2 Timeline - 9/30/2025		TOTAL ERAP 1 & 2		Notes
	low range	high range	low range	high range	low range	high range	
1 VT Emergency Rental Assistance Program (VERAP)	\$ 113,600,352	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 158,600,352	\$ 163,600,352		ERAP Benefit - 70% rental benefit thru 3/31/2023 and 50% rental benefit thru 6/30/2023 for households below 30% AMI. Includes proposal for \$6.4M of restored capacity from Nov JFC.
2 VERAP Utility Assistance	\$ 13,083,866	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 17,000,000	\$ 25,083,866	\$ 30,083,866		ERAP Benefit - 80% rental benefit thru 12/31/2022 to currently enrolled households under 80% AMI, then 70% to households under 30% of AMI until 3/31/2023, then 50% rental benefit thru 6/30/2023 for households below 30% AMI. Since this program is still active, there is more uncertainty with the final expense estimate. Includes proposal for \$2.2M of restored capacity from Nov JFC.
3 Transitional & Emergency Housing	\$ 31,885,375	\$ 54,377,500	\$ 11,400,000	\$ 86,262,875	\$ 86,262,875		ERAP Benefit - Transitional housing thru 3/31/2023 under current parameters, emergency housing thru 6/30/2023 reverted to pre-pandemic rules 7/1/22. Includes proposal for \$12.6M of restored capacity from Nov JFC.
4 Reach Up Rental Assistance	\$ 3,253,519	\$ 13,700,000	\$ 16,953,519	\$ 2,332,147	\$ 2,332,147		Currently appropriated at \$15M and will need to be reduced in BAA. Includes proposal for \$5M of restored capacity from Nov JFC.
5 Housing Stability Services - DCF	\$ 832,147	\$ 4,308,904	\$ 4,308,904	\$ 4,308,904	\$ 4,308,904		Funded for 3 years to provide wraparound services thru community partners. Includes proposal for \$5M of restored capacity from Nov JFC.
6 Housing Stability Services - ACCD - DHCD		\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 10,000,000		Provides additional capacity within existing programs or allow GF to be reappropriated in BAA.
7 Existing Housing programs at DOC, DMH, DCF							Grant to VHCB for permanent investments in affordable housing. This is subject to funding availability after the reconciliation is complete. Includes proposal for up to \$10M of restored capacity from Nov JFC.
8 Permanent Affordable Housing - if funds are available							Administrative costs. For ERA1, this reflects reconciled amount. For ERA2, admin costs are roughly \$6M and are incorporated into the project lines. Some ERA1 admin was rolled to ERA2.
9 Admin (VSHA, PSD, DCF, ACCD)	\$ 5,961,049	\$ 147,286,404	\$ 162,286,404	\$ 5,961,049	\$ 5,961,049		
10 TOTAL ERAP 1 & ERAP II	\$ 168,616,308	\$ 147,286,404	\$ 162,286,404	\$ 315,902,712	\$ 330,902,712		
	Total available \$168.6M	Total available \$152M	Total available \$320M	Total available \$320M	Total available \$320M		

ERAP 2 Reconciliation Recommendation for Available Funds - November JFC

Recommendation	Organization	Amount	Notes
11 Housing Stability Services	DCF	\$ 5,000,000	Fully funded for 3 years at a total of \$15.2M.
12 Housing Stability Services	DHCD	\$ 12,600,000	Transitional housing thru 3/31/2023 and emergency housing thru 6/30/2023.
13 Transitional & Emergency Housing	DCF	\$ 6,400,000	70% rental benefit thru 3/31/2023 and 50% rental benefit thru 6/30/2023 for households below 30% AMI.
14 VT Emergency Rental Assistance Program (VERAP)	VSHA thru AOA	\$ 2,200,000	80% rental benefit thru 12/31/2022 to currently enrolled households under 30% of AMI until 3/31/2023, then 50% until 6/30/2023.
15 VERAP Utility Assistance	PSD	\$ 10,000,000	Amount available is an estimate. Must be expended by 9/30/2025
16 Permanent Affordable Housing	VHCB	\$ 36,200,000	
17 TOTAL		\$ 72,400,000	

\$15M GF - Proposal - To be Finalized in the FY23 BAA:

Organization	GF	Notes
18 Emergency and Shelter Capacity	\$ 5,680,000	Increase and preserve emergency shelter capacity through capital investments. Support 3 to 6 shelter projects which will create or preserve 64 to 80 emergency shelter beds. This will create base operating budget pressure for the operating costs associated with the shelters.
19 Vermont Rental Subsidy Program	\$ 1,500,000	One-time increase to an existing benefit program. Will be targeted towards Reach Up ERAP beneficiaries who have exhausted their benefit. Will serve approximately 140 families and will continue to be time limited - 12 to 18 months. Also includes temporary staffing at DCF.
20 Housing Opportunity Grant Program	\$ 500,000	One-time increase to boost the amount of financial assistance to help households with below 50% AMI with rental arrears or financial support for moving. Eligible households will apply to local agencies for up to \$8K based on their housing plan. Will prevent homeless for up to 150 households.
21 Incentives to increase homelessness units within Housing projects	\$ 1,000,000	Will support VHCB increasing homelessness units beyond 15% in forthcoming projects. Anticipated to create 10 to 15 housing units.
22 Vermont Housing Improvement Program (VHIP)	\$ 1,500,000	Continue support that will allow for the rehabilitation of underutilized units to be brought back online to serve the most vulnerable. Will support an estimated additional 30 units.
23 General Assistance Emergency Housing	\$ 4,820,000	Allow DCF to adjust to emerging needs, provide benefits to households who have timed out of ERAP, and cover administrative costs of program.
TOTAL	\$ 15,000,000	