



NEWS RELEASE

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Emergency Rental Assistance Program Helps Stockton Families *\$40 Million Program to Help Thousands of Stockton Households*

STOCKTON, Calif. – On January 28, 2021, the State Legislature passed the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act (SB 91). The Stockton City Council approved accepting \$19.3 million in State and Federal funding on February 23, 2021, to provide housing stability and security for renters impacted by COVID. By March 15, 2021, the City launched a program to help low-income renters pay past due rent and utilities through a partnership with local non-profit El Concilio. El Concilio call center representatives assist renters and landlords with the application process and work with other local community-based organizations to provide program information and application assistance to those eligible. The program has been so successful that the City Council approved accepting an additional \$19.7 million in funding on August 24, 2021, for a total of \$40 million.

“When we were first notified that we would be eligible to receive funding for renters living within the city of Stockton, we jumped at the chance,” shared Carrie Wright, Economic Development Director for the City of Stockton. “We knew that COVID had stretched our resources thin, so we had to find a community partner to help. El Concilio already had relationships with many of the low-income community members who qualify for funding and the customer service skills to assist those with the greatest need. We worked with El Concilio to expand their staffing, training, and technology, creating a full-fledged call center dedicated

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to the City's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). To-date, 3,540 households have received assistance and over \$20 million in funding has been provided or is in the pipeline."

In January, the state-approved "Tenant Relief Act" provided counties and the thirteen largest cities in California a funding allocation specifically for low-income renters, as part of the state's evictions protection efforts, to provide housing stability and prevent homelessness during the pandemic. Cities and counties had the option of accepting and managing the funds directly or allowing the state to manage funds. In February, the City of Stockton accepted \$19.3 million to benefit renters and landlords within the city limits. The state expanded the program with the passage of AB 832 on June 29, 2021, to cover other rent-related costs, such as relocation fees, security deposits, application and screening fees, and legal services. The City accepted an additional \$19.7 million in August to continue the program.

"The partnership formed between the City of Stockton, El Concilio and our community partners has expanded services and job opportunities, building on our strength as a community," said City Manager Harry Black. "Our community non-profit organizations assist with marketing and outreach, program education, technical assistance, and eviction prevention. When the state expanded the program in June, we all demonstrated flexibility by adapting to these evolving needs, making the necessary changes without interruption. As a result, a lifeline of \$40 million is available for our most vulnerable households in Stockton. Our operation of this program is truly a model for the state and other communities throughout the nation."

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This program is free to those eligible and available while funding lasts. For additional details, please visit www.stocktonca.gov/renthelp or www.elconcilio.org. Renters and landlords may contact the EI Concilio call center at (209) 644-2690.

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