

## **Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) Housing Work Group Meeting Minutes**

April 19, 2021 – 9:30-11:30 a.m.

**Present:** Gerald Richards (Chair; ACOA); Lenore McDonald (Co-Chair; Center for Elders' Independence); Jim Donnelly (ACOA); Victoria Snyder (Senior Legal Services); Hector Malvido (Ensuring opportunity); Elizabeth Verdin (The Hume Center); Lynn Peralta (Employment & Human Services Department); Nhang Luong (Staff Support; Area Agency on Aging)

### **Introductions**

### **Agenda and minutes approved**

#### **Presentation: California Rent Relief Program – Lynn Peralta, Division Manager, Employment & Human Services Department**

- Jan 5, 2021 – Federal government launched Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). California's allocation is \$2.7 billion and Contra Costa received \$71 million of those funds. CA Rent Relief Program launched on March 15.
- Apply for funds on CA Housing is Key website or through local partner network.
- People behind on rent: 75% people of color, 77% low income, 61% unemployed, 83% low employment income
- 880,000 Californian households behind on rent
- Contra Costa: 25,861 renter households at risk of eviction, estimated rent debt per household \$5,233
- CA Rent Relief Program currently has 3,491 active cases and almost \$38 million requested.
- Eligibility: Income below 80% Area Median Income (AMI) at time of application, on unemployment, reduced household income due to COVID-19 hardships, at-risk of homelessness
- If qualified, landlords are reimbursed 80% of renter's unpaid rent debt incurred between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. Landlord must agree to waive the remainder 20%.
- If landlords opt to not participate in Rent Relief Program, renters also apply for assistance with future rent (25% of monthly rent) and 100% of unpaid or future utility bills for up to 12 months.
- Program is currently underutilized. In response, the Governor announced proposal to cover 100% of rent debt. Proposal is pending legislature approval.
- Many people are unaware of the program and are borrowing money to cover rent from family, pay day loans and/or their credit cards.
- Rental assistance program underutilized. Need to get more materials translated to reach underserved communities. Community partners can help navigate and assist with application process.

*Action item:* Distribute flyer about the CA Rent Relief Program to help spread the word. Flyer is currently available in English but will be available in other languages.

#### **Review: Housing Legislation – Gerald Richards**

**SB 10** - Zone any parcel for up to 10 units of density if parcel is located at transit, jobs, or urban area.

**SB 9** - makes it easier to subdivide an existing lot in residential areas.

**SB 8** – clarification of the Housing Crisis Act of 2019

*Action item:* Gerry will review housing bills supported by Board of Supervisors and bring back to the Housing Work Group for discussion and support, if appropriate.

**Update: Home Match Contra Costa – Gabriela Perez, Director, Home Match**

Gabriela Perez, Director, Home Match – could not make meeting but sent report.

- Front Porch merged with Covia – name changed to Front Porch.
- Intergenerational match 27 year old with a 78 year old. 78 year old had lost his part time job due to COVID and is a renter. Was at risk of losing his housing if he didn't find a housemate to split costs with him. 27 year old was at risk of homelessness.
- Currently have three home providers and receiving calls from potential applicants interested in opening their homes. If you know of anyone interested in opening their home please share Home Match information with them.
- Home Match was a part of the East County Senior Coalition and City of Brentwood's Senior Health & Safety Circus Drive-Thru Event. 189 older adults participated and received food boxes and various activity kits.

**Update: Housing White Paper** – Won't be able to update demographic data until August when new Census data is expected to be released.

**Information Sharing and Announcements:**

CEI opened the PACE Center in Concord. Officially accepting applications.

Staffing changes AAA – Ruth Atkin retiring, new AAA Program Manager is Ana Bagtas

**Next meeting:** Monday, June 21, 2021 9:30-11:30 a.m.