



February 17, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Additional Emergency Rental Assistance for High-need Jurisdictions

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

As you consider supplemental appropriations legislation related to our ongoing recovery from COVID-19, we ask you to approve additional funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance program in order to meet the outstanding need in jurisdictions where it is unlikely that sufficient funding will be available through Treasury’s process to reallocate existing funding. In our jurisdictions there are many more vulnerable people in need than the expected reallocation of funding between jurisdictions will allow. It is critical that Congress provides additional resources and ensures no family faces eviction due to rental arrears accrued due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than \$27 billion in existing ERAP funding has been spent or obligated to approximately 10 million people living in over 3.2 million renter households nationwide to keep families who have experienced hardships due to the current pandemic in their homes. Over the last 6 months, ERAP has successfully prioritized and expedited funding disbursements to approved applicants, providing necessary financial relief to tenants and landlords during the unprecedented public health crisis.

Despite this good work, additional funding for this program is needed. The Department of Treasury’s first ERAP reallocation payment did not provide high-need jurisdictions with adequate funding to meet the demand we are experiencing. For example, the California Department of Housing and Community Development was awarded \$50.3 million from the first direct payment of the Treasury’s national ERAP reallocation. Yet, the demand for additional emergency rental assistance in Los Angeles alone is

estimated at more than \$960 million. The State of New York is requesting \$1.6 billion for reallocation but only received \$27 million from the first reallocation¹. Similarly, the state of Texas requested \$3 billion but did not receive any funding, with only \$19 million² in total being reallocated to several Texas cities and counties. Other jurisdictions across the country still have tremendous outstanding need. For example, the City of Boston has an outstanding need of roughly \$80 million; the City of Oakland has an outstanding need of roughly \$20 million and, on January 7, opened a waitlist as its local program is oversubscribed that had over 1,300 households as of February 11; the City of San Diego has an outstanding need of \$36 million as of February 3 and anticipates needing \$96 million to serve tenants based on the current rate of approved applications. Therefore, we expect Treasury's first and second ERAP reallocation payments will be insufficient and not meet the scale of need in our jurisdictions.

As leaders in high-need jurisdictions, we know the need of our residents on the ground. We want to continue to lead an equitable recovery approach by supporting the most vulnerable residents in our cities who are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This includes low-income households, single-parent families, families with children, and communities of color. Recovery and support start with keeping a roof over the heads of these families. Cities and states cannot do this alone. That is why it is critical for Congress to provide additional funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance programs for high-need jurisdictions based on outstanding need.

Sincerely,

Mayor Eric Adams
City of New York, NY

Mayor London Breed
City of San Francisco, CA

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City of Los Angeles, CA

Mayor Todd Gloria
City of San Diego, CA

Mayor Michael Hancock
City of Denver, CO

Mayor Bruce Harrell
City of Seattle, WA

Mayor Sam Liccardo
City of San Jose, CA

Mayor Lori Lightfoot
City of Chicago, IL

Mayor Libby Schaaf
City of Oakland, CA

Mayor Michelle Wu
City of Boston, MA

¹ "Governor Hochul Announces New York State Requests \$1.6 Billion in Additional Federal Funding for Emergency Rental Assistance." *Governor's Office*, January 27, 2022. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-new-york-state-requests-16-billion-additional-federal-funding>.

² Kasakove, Sophie and Glenn Thrush. "Federal Rental Assistance Is Running Out, With Tenants Still in Need." *The New York Times*, January 7, 2022. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/07/us/federal-rental-assistance-evictions.html>.