



January 31, 2022

The Honorable Janet L. Yellen
 Secretary, United States Department of Treasury
 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Yellen,

Thank you for your leadership in implementing the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program, alleviating the economic hardship experienced by tenants and landlords during the ongoing pandemic. The partnership between mayors, our governors, community-based organizations, and your Department has proven to be extremely effective in preventing homelessness and housing instability.

As our cities' economies continue to recover from the devastating impacts of the pandemic, our priorities to keep residents safe, healthy, housed, and employed have been consistent. We have used evidence-based targeting to assist our most vulnerable tenants, leveraged eviction protections to maximize rental assistance, and provided maximum flexibility and lowered barriers to ensure ERA resources are deployed efficiently and effectively. Yet, our residents still face the daily threat of deep rental debt and eviction. COVID-19 has highlighted a housing affordability crisis and the inequities that have persisted in our country for decades.

While we are grateful for your timely action to reallocate federal funds to states and communities in greatest need, we require additional funding. Additional federal support will be the difference between residents having a roof over their heads or living on our streets.

As ERA funds remain unused across the country, we ask the U.S. Treasury to swiftly implement the following actions to provide operational clarity and give respite to cities in desperate need of rent relief resources:

- Accelerate the deployment of unused federal ERA2 dollars to jurisdictions that demonstrate the highest need and coordinate with Congress as discussions on an appropriations supplemental related to COVID-19 recovery;
- Recover and reallocate unspent ERA1 funds beginning March 31, 2022, and recommend that jurisdictions prioritize assistance for extremely low-income renter households;
- Modify grantee pay-out metrics in the reallocation application;
- Utilize a more equitable and targeted allocation methodology that accounts for a jurisdiction's share of very low-income renter households, housing costs, and overcrowding, among other factors; and
- Release new guidance for the reallocation of ERA2 funds before the end of January 2022.

We remain eager to work more closely to enhance coordination and drive greater impact. We thank you for your continued partnership to meet the shared needs of our communities.

Sincerely,

Eric Adams
Mayor of New York City, NY

London N. Breed
Mayor of San Francisco, CA

Kate Gallego
Mayor of Phoenix, AZ

Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles, CA

Todd Gloria
Mayor of San Diego, CA

Bruce Harrell
Mayor of Seattle, WA

Jim Kenney
Mayor of Philadelphia, PA

Sam Liccardo
Mayor of San Jose, CA

Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor of Chicago, IL

Kevin Lincoln
Mayor of Stockton, CA

Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor of Riverside, CA

Libby Schaaf
Mayor of Oakland, CA

Harry Sidhu
Mayor of Anaheim, CA

Darrell Steinberg
Mayor of Sacramento, CA

Regina Romero
Mayor of Tucson, AZ

Ted Wheeler
Mayor of Portland, OR

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston, MA