

*Orange County Public Safety*

# COVID-19 Coronavirus Update

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

February 9, 2021



# Presentation Overview

- **COVID-19 Statistics**
- **COVID-19 Eviction Diversion Program**
- **CARES Emergency Rental Assistance Program**



# COVID-19 Statistics

## COVID-19 Cases

- Over 105,000 cumulative cases in Orange County
- 1002 deaths in Orange County
- 14 days' average positivity rate is 9.2%

## COVID-19 Testing

- Convention Center, Barnett Park

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

- Over 150,000 total doses administered in Orange County
- Over 38,000 residents have received second dose
- Vaccination sites
  - Convention Center, OCFRD sites, hospitals, Veterans Affairs



# Presentation Overview

- COVID-19 Statistics
- COVID-19 Eviction Diversion Program
- CARES Emergency Rental Assistance Program



# Orange County COVID-19

## Eviction Diversion Program

### Application Data

Total Landlord in Progress or Submitted	8,707
Total Tenant Pre-Screens Submitted	6,538 - CLOSED
Landlords and Tenants Matched	3,683
Applications sent to Comptroller	3,466
Amount of Payments sent to Comptroller	\$10,920,929
Average Payment Amount	\$3,151
Average Household Size	2.5
Percent of Minority Tenants Supported	69%

Full Budget: \$12M

\*As of 2/8, 10AM



# Presentation Overview

- COVID-19 Statistics
- COVID-19 Eviction Diversion Program
- **CARES Emergency Rental Assistance Program**



# ERA Program Outline

- **Background**
- **Program Requirements and Eligibility**
- **Eviction Diversion Program Summary**
- **Rental Market and Need**
- **Recommendations**
- **Next Steps**
- **Action Requested**



# Background

- **COVID-19 Relief Bill provided \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance**
- **Administered by U.S. Treasury through Coronavirus Relief Fund**
- **Orange County received \$33.4M**
  - Can only be spent in unincorporated County and smaller cities
  - Must be expended by December 2021
- **City of Orlando receiving \$8M**
  - Coordinating regarding program criteria and outreach





# Program Requirements and Eligibility

- **At least 90% of funds must be used for:**
  - Rental arrears
  - Rent – up to 3 months forward
  - Utilities and home energy costs (only for renter households)
- **10% of funds for administration and case management**
- **Assistance for arrears and future payments cannot exceed 12 months**
- **Locally, we can decide on our maximum cap for assistance**
- **Rent payments made to the landlord**



# Program Requirements and Eligibility

- Renter households with incomes at or below 80% Area Median Income (AMI)
- Priority given to households at or below 50% AMI or unemployed for 90 days
- Tenants must provide evidence of rent owed – past due notice or eviction notice
- Tenants must provide evidence of COVID impact – reduced income, unemployment

## Income Category

Household Size	Very Low 50% of Median	Low 80% of Median
1	\$25,450	\$40,750
2	\$29,100	\$46,550
3	\$32,750	\$52,350
4	\$36,350	\$58,150



# Program Requirements and Eligibility

- **Income documentation required with application:**
  - Copy of household's 2020 Tax Return as filed with the IRS; or
  - Source documents evidencing two months of income prior to application – wage statement, paycheck stub, unemployment statement, etc.



# Program Requirements and Eligibility

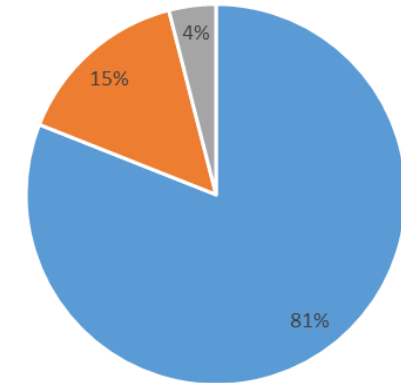
- **Data must be collected on each renter household for reporting and monitoring:**
  - Number of individuals in household/Household income
  - Race/Gender
  - Ethnicity of applicant
  - Amount of rental arrears
  - Number of months paid by ERA program



# Eviction Diversion Program Summary

- Expenditure to Date: \$11 million
- Households Served: 3,450
- Average Household Size Served: 2.5
- Average Payment: \$3,150
- Maximum Cap - \$4,000

Households served by the Eviction Diversion Program



■ 50% AMI ■ 80% AMI ■ > 80% AMI



# Rental Market and Need– Orange County (\*) (\*\*)

- 195,000 Renter-Occupied Units
- 146,000 Renter households with income below \$50,000
- 61,000 Households earning below \$50,000 who are cost burdened (paying over 30% of income toward rent)
- 52,676 residents (7.2%) of Orange County unemployed (December 2020)
- Occupancy: 92%
- Average Monthly Rent: \$1,263

\* US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019

\*\* Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Jan. 2021 data release



# Recommendations

- **To meet program priorities set aside:**
  - 60% of funds for 50% AMI and unemployed = \$20 million
  - 30% of funds for 80% AMI = \$10 million
  - 10% program administration = \$3.4 million
- **Rental assistance for arrears only**
  - Must be at least one month's rent
- **Maximum Assistance Cap - \$10,000**
  - Reduced based on prior assistance under Eviction Diversion Program
  - Landlord must forgive outstanding balance
  - An average \$4,000 disbursement = 8,250 households



## Next Steps

- **Program management and staffing**
- **Work on new application portal for ERA**
- **Develop marketing plan for new program to include:**
  - New promotional materials
  - Increased community outreach in low-income neighborhoods
  - Social media outreach
- **Education tools on completing online application – Video on Orange County website**
- **Anticipate opening March 1, 2021**





## Action Requested

- **Approval of Orange County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program for the purpose of providing rental relief to Orange County residents**

*Orange County Public Safety*

# COVID-19 Coronavirus Update

Board of County Commissioners Meeting

February 9, 2021