



PILOT SUPPLEMENTAL RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SENIORS AT-RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS

Housing and Human Services

City Council
April 23, 2024

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BACKGROUND



CALIFORNIA
1/3 of the Nation's
Homeless
Population

Fastest Growing Group: Seniors

↑ **7%**

Increase in California's
Senior Population
2017 – 2021

↑ **84%**

Increase in
Senior Requests for
Homelessness Services

2023 Riverside County Homeless Point-in-Time Count

109 Homeless Seniors
Between 55 to 64

46 Homeless Seniors
Over the Age of 65



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HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

-  Must be renting a **residential unit in the City of Riverside**
-  Prioritizes households **at or below 30% of area median income**
-  Provides **up to three months of assistance** with past due rent



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DISCUSSION

Section 8 Wait List

1,535

Seniors At or Over
the Age of 62

346 70 Years
or Older

First Level Preference:

- Veterans,
- Widows of Veterans
- Those Who Are 70 Years and Older

Wait Time for Seniors 70 Years or Older

6 MONTH – ONE YEAR



\$1,767.03

Average Social Security
Income Payment
December 2023



\$1,782

Average One-Bedroom
Apartment Rent



\$2,345

Cost of Living for
One Person



\$600

Funding Gap for
Cost of Living



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PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL SENIOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Provide **up to \$600 for up to 12 months** of supplemental senior rental assistance payments

- Must be at or over 70 years old
- Income at or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Prioritize households at or below 30% of AMI

- Must submit a Riverside County Housing Authority **Section 8 pre-application**
- Must be added to **affordable senior housing wait lists**
- After six month, if there are no applications pending, **open the program to seniors at or above 62**
- Assist a **minimum of 125 seniors**



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan Priorities



#2 Community Well-Being,
Goal No. 2.2

Cross-Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility

Sustainability &
Resiliency

Equity



Innovation



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Council:

1. Authorize the establishment of a pilot Supplemental Rental Assistance Program for seniors at-risk of becoming homeless;
2. With at least five affirmative votes, authorize the Chief Financial Officer, or designee, to:
 - a. Allocate American Rescue Plan Act Expenditure Plan interest earnings in the amount of \$900,000 to General Fund revenue replacement;
 - b. Record a supplemental appropriation in the Grants and Restricted Fund, American Rescue Plan Act accounts in the amount of \$900,000 and record an interfund transfer of the same amount to the General Fund to effectuate the American Rescue Plan Act revenue replacement allocation; and
 - c. Record a supplemental appropriation in the General Fund in the amount of \$900,000 and record an interfund transfer and supplemental appropriation of the same amount in the Grants and Restricted Fund, Senior Rental Assistance Program account.



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