

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

## Housing and Human Services

City Council  
April 23, 2024

RiversideCA.gov

1

## 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






2

RiversideCA.gov

2

# 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



3

RiversideCA.gov

3

# 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



4

RiversideCA.gov

4

## 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**



5

RiversideCA.gov

5

## 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



6

RiversideCA.gov

6

# 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.

