



Department of Housing

**REPORT ON RENT RELIEF PROGRAMS  
AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY  
THE EATON FIRE**

**April 14, 2025**





# BACKGROUND

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- Eaton Fire destroyed 117 homes in the City, with substantial damage to another 7 residential units.
- Unknown number of Pasadena residents were impacted financially through the loss or decrease of business or employment income.
- Also unknown is the number of individuals impacted who derive their income from the residential service economy (e.g., child and elderly care, housekeeping, and landscape services).



# BACKGROUND

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## Council Direction

- Concurrent with Council approval on 3/3/25 of a motion directing the preparation of a temporary, emergency ordinance prohibiting tenant evictions for non-payment of rent, Council also directed staff to return with a report on potential funding sources for rent assistance.
- This presentation looks at external funding programs, and internal funding streams administered by the Housing Department.



# External Funding Sources and Programs

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## Federal Level

- FEMA Rental Assistance Program provided a temporary grant for interim rental housing while the home is being repaired or rebuilt.
- Program closed on 3/31/25.

## State Level

The State has not established a rental assistance program for individuals impacted by the Eaton Fire.

## County of Los Angeles

\$32.2M to support to impacted households with grants up to \$18K; program closed on 3/12/25.



# External Funding Sources and Programs

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## Non-Profit Sector (detailed in Agenda Report)

- **Pasadena Community Foundation**
  - Approx. \$19 million in donations collected
- **USHS - Eaton Fire Housing Assistance Program**
- **Door of Hope - Eaton Fire Hsg Assistance Program**
- **Pasadena Educational Foundation**
  - Distributed approximately \$1.7 million in assistance to the PUSD community in March
- **Eaton Fire Collaborative**
- **One Voice Fire Relief Fund**
  - Financial assistance to service workers whose jobs were impacted by the fires



# External Funding Sources and Programs

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## Faith-Based Sector

- Staff unable to identify Pasadena faith-based institutions that are offering rent relief support on an open basis.
- But many such institutions are providing support to members of their respective congregations.
- Example: The Pasadena Community Clergy Coalition has established an Eaton Fire Relief program that provides financial support to impacted individuals and their families identified through local congregations.



# Internal Funding Sources through the Housing Department

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## Federal Funds

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**
  - An annual funding entitlement intended to support community development programs/projects.
  - \$2.45M budgeted in FY 2025 - all but \$250,000 committed to projects, programs, and administrative support.
  - Beneficiaries must be Low income, not exceeding 80% of the County area median income (\$88,800 for a 2-person household).



# Internal Funding Sources through the Housing Department

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## Federal Funds

- **Continuum of Care**

- \$939K budgeted in FY 2025 for rapid rehousing programming which provides rental assistance and supportive services to households exiting homelessness.
- The funding is subcontracted to Union Station Homeless Services (\$214,000) and Volunteers of America Los Angeles (\$725,000), with the latter designated to serve households with a history of domestic violence.





# Internal Funding Sources through the Housing Department

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## Federal Funds

- **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)**
  - Approximately \$187K is budgeted in FY 2025.
  - Beneficiaries must qualify as being at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
  - Beneficiaries must be Extremely Low income, not exceeding 30% of the County area median income (\$33,300 for a 2-person household).
  - City must provide a 100% funding match.



# Internal Funding Sources through the Housing Department

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## Federal Funds

- **ESG-Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (ESG-RUSH)**
  - Approximately \$1M awarded to City to assist people experiencing or at risk of homelessness whose needs are exacerbated by disasters.
  - Beneficiaries must be Extremely Low income, not exceeding 30% of the County area median income.
  - A significant amount of this grant is being planned to provide rental assistance for eligible households experiencing and at risk of homelessness.



# Internal Funding Sources through the Housing Department

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## State Funds

- **Family Homelessness Challenge (FHC)**
  - \$789K awarded to City for homelessness prevention programming which includes payment of rental arrears and short-term rental assistance to families with minor children at risk of homelessness.
  - Beneficiaries must be Extremely Low income, not exceeding 30% of the County area median income (\$33,300 for a 2-person household).
  - These funds are currently subcontracted to local non-profit Door of Hope.



# Internal Funding Sources through the Housing Department

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## State Funds

- **Homeless, Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP)**
  - \$458K awarded to City for rapid rehousing programming which provides rental assistance, move-in costs, and supportive services to households experiencing homelessness.
  - \$80,000 of these funds subcontracted to Union Station Homeless Services.



# Internal Funding Sources Administered through Housing

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## City-Administered Programs

- **Housing Successor Funds – City**
  - The projected end of FY 2025 balance is approximately \$478K.
  - Restricted under state redevelopment dissolution law to be utilized for the development, rehabilitation, or preservation of affordable housing, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing services, and administrative costs.



# Internal Funding Sources Administered through Housing

Department of Housing

## City-Administered Programs

- **Local Solutions Funds from Measure A – County**
  - Approximately \$874K to be allocated to City in July.
  - These funds could be used for rental assistance under the Measure A “Homelessness Prevention” category.
  - Beneficiaries must be precariously housed and/or be at risk of eviction.
  - Beneficiaries must be Very Low income, not exceeding 50% of the County area median income (\$55,450 for a 2-person household).



# Conclusion

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- ✓ Most of the identified internal funding administered by the City are awarded under federal/state programs intended to address homelessness.
- ✓ Such funds are highly proscribed as to allowable uses and beneficiary eligibility, and are restricted from reallocation for broad rent relief.
- ✓ These funds are also subscribed, for the most part, as they are under contract with providers or programmed for allowable uses.



# Conclusion

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- ✓ There is some assistance available through the non-profit and faith-based sectors.
- ✓ The use of general fund dollars is not recommended due to economic uncertainty and existing shortfalls for existing programs and uses.