

ERA Compliance Report - Cameron County, Texas - ERA 1 Quarter 4 2021

Report Period : Quarter 4 2021 (October-December)

Recipient Profile

Recipient Information

Recipient DUNS	010546679
Recipient DUNS (+4)	0105
Recipient TIN	746000420
Recipient Legal Entity Name	Cameron County, Texas
Recipient Type	
Recipient Address	1100 E. Monroe St.
Recipient Address 2	
Recipient Address 3	
Recipient City	Brownsville
Recipient State/Territory	TX
Recipient Zip5	78523-3846
Recipient Zip+4	
Country Name	

Recipient Information

Discrepancies Explanation	
Is the Recipient Registered in SAM.Gov?	Yes

Projects

Project Overview

Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN)	ERA0421
CFDA #	21.023
Award Date	1/27/2021
Grant Funds Received	\$12,786,338.20
Recipient Project ID	ERA-210111971
Name of the ERA Project	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
ERA Project Website URL	https://cdcb.org/rental-assistance
Geographic Service Area	County-Wide
System for Prioritizing Assistance Narrative	<p>https://c• Under 50% AMFI or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member of their household has been unemployed for 90 days or more from the date the application is submitted. <p>The U.S. Department of the Treasury permits grantees to designate additional categories for prioritization and ccera program additional prioritization includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants facing eviction with an active eviction filing and docket number. <p>Applicants who reside in cdcb rental properties are eligible to apply for rental assistance for arrears or prospective payments if they meet the program eligibility requirements. Tenants of cdcb properties are not given a priority status for application processing or payments.</p> <p>dcb.org/rental-assistance</p>
	<p>Cameron County has implemented the ERA Improvement Plan approved by the U.S. Treasury Department. The Program Improvement Plan was developed to improve the delivery of emergency rental assistance (ERA) funds in Cameron County.</p> <p>As part of the Plan, the Cameron County’s Administration reassigned the administration and management of the ERA 1 & 2 Grants to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Office.</p> <p>ARPA Office met with and advised the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB), the private, non-profit contractor to develop their respective responsibility for the Improvement Plan, which they did. CDCB has since improved its operation.</p> <p>The County also contracted via an interlocal agreement the Cameron County Housing Authority (CCHA) to assist with the implementation of the ERA Program. The CCHA developed and implemented its strategy during the 4th Quarter to start January 2022.</p> <p>Furthermore, the County created an Inhouse Program Operation to also assist with the implementation of the ERA</p>

<p>Project Description</p>	<p>Program. The Inhouse Program Operation was also developed during the 4th Quarter to start January 2022.</p> <p>Cameron County staffed the Inhouse Program Operation with the following personnel: Office Director or Fiscal Analyst Supervisor (50%) Fiscal Analyst (100%) Two (2) Intake/Process Assistants (100%) If necessary and expected, two additional Intake/Process Assistants will be employed.</p> <p>Another proactive step taken by ARPA Office: The County has 10 Justice of the Peace (JP) Courts covering the whole county. These JP Courts are the courts that adjudicate evictions for non-payment of rent and other issues. As such, the ARPA has established a coordinated communication system with the JP Courts in which the courts automatically referred the eviction cases to the Intake/Process Assistants. The Intake/Process Assistants then directly communicate with the tenants being evicted and the corresponding landlords. The process allows for the landlords to temporarily pause the eviction process in order for the tenant to apply and obtain the necessary rental assistance and thus avoid the eviction. This effort too will generate additional applications for assistance.</p> <p>Yet another program problem has been addressed by the ARPA Office. Applications from CDCB were being held back due to lack of completeness creating a reimbursement problem between Cameron County and CDCB. The ARPA Office has assigned the Fiscal Analyst to review and correct invoices and applications from CDCB resulting in a better streamline process for the Auditor's Office; thus, expediting the reimbursement process.</p>
<p>Use of Fact Based Proxies for Determining Eligibility</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Explanation for Use of Fact Based Proxies for Determining Eligibility</p>	

Expenditures

Aggregate Disbursements to Individuals

Expenditure: EN-00114554

Project Name This is correct. No. 8 of 8.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Administrative Costs
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$1,153,605.16
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$290,568.36

Expenditure: EN-00130124

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Administrative Costs
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$115,360.52
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$29,056.84

Expenditure: EN-00130129

Project Name This is correct. No. 4 of 8.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Other Housing Costs Incurred due to Covid-19
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00130130

Project Name This is correct. No. 5 of 8.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Housing Stability Services (Including Eviction Prevention/Diversion)
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131510

Project Name This is correct. No. 1 of 8.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Rent
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$1,153,605.16
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$290,568.36

Expenditure: EN-00131534

Project Name This is correct. No. 2 of 8, but wrong figures.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Rental Arrears

Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$109,592.49
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$27,603.99

Expenditure: EN-00131549

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Other Housing Costs Incurred due to Covid-19
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131609

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Housing Stability Services (Including Eviction Prevention/Diversion)
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131545

Project Name This is correct. No. 3 of 8, but wrong figures.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Utility/Home Energy Costs
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$92,288.41
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$23,245.47

Expenditure: EN-00131552

Project Name This not applicable. No. 7 of 8.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Other Housing Costs (ERA2 Only)
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131554

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Housing Stability Services (Including Eviction Prevention/Diversion)
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131546

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Utility/Home Energy Costs
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00

Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00
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Expenditure: EN-00131581

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Rent
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$1,153,605.16
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$290,568.36

Expenditure: EN-00131573

Project Name	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category This is a repeat.	Administrative Costs
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$115,360.52
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$29,056.84

Expenditure: EN-00131595

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Rent
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$1,153,605.16
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$290,568.36

Expenditure: EN-00131600

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Utility/Home Energy Costs
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131605

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Other Housing Costs Incurred due to Covid-19
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131597

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Rental Arrears
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131601

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Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Utility/Home Energy Costs Arrears
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131607

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Financial Assistance: Other Housing Costs (ERA2 Only)
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$0.00
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$0.00

Expenditure: EN-00131611

Project Name This is a repeat.	Cameron County, Texas ERA Project
Expenditure Category	Administrative Costs
Total Quarterly Expenditure Amount	\$115,360.52
Total Quarterly Obligation Amount	\$29,056.84

Demographics

ERA Applicants

Number of unique households that completed and submitted an application for ERA assistance:	676
Number of Unique Households that Received ERA Assistance (#):	321
Number of Unique Households that Received their Initial ERA Assistance in the Current Reporting Period:	0

ERA Assistance Provided

Number of unique households that received ERA assistance by type: Rent	321
Number of unique households that received ERA assistance by type: Rental Arrears	31
Number of unique households that received ERA assistance by type: Utilities/Home Energy Bills	27
Number of unique households that received ERA assistance by type: Utilities/Home Energy Arrears	0
Number of unique households that received ERA assistance by type: Other expenses related to housing	0
Number of unique households that received ERA assistance by type: Housing stability services	0

Participant Households at Certain Income Levels

Number of unique households at certain income levels: Less than 30% of Area Median Income	244
Number of unique households at certain income levels: Between 30 and 50% of Area Median Income	53
Number of unique households at certain income levels: Between 50 and 80% of Area Median Income	24
Total number of recipient households whose income eligibility was determined based on their eligibility for other federal benefit programs: Households Eligible- Prior Enrollment	0
Total number of recipient households whose income eligibility was determined using a fact-based proxy:	0
Total amount of ERA award paid to or for participant households:	\$1,153,605
Average Number of Months of Rent or Utility/Home Energy Payments Covered for Each Participant Household:	3

Award Activity Amounts Approved (Obligated) and Amounts Paid (Expended) During the Quarter

Total Dollar Amount of ERA Award Funds Approved (Obligated) to or for Participant Households	\$290,568
Total Dollar Amount of ERA funds Paid (Expended) for Administrative Expenses	\$115,360
Total Dollar Amount of ERA Award Funds Approved (Obligated) for Administrative Expenses	\$29,056
Total Dollar Amount of ERA Award Funds Paid (Expended) for Housing Stability Services	\$0
Total Dollar Amount of ERA Award Funds Approved (Obligated) for Housing Stability Services	\$0

Performance & Financial Report

	<p>Completed by December 31, 2021: As part of the Plan, the Cameron County's Administration reassigned the administration and management of the ERA 1 & 2 Grants to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Office.</p> <p>ARPA Office met with and advised the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB), the private, non-profit contractor to develop their respective responsibility for the Improvement Plan, which they did. CDCB has since improved its operation.</p> <p>The County also contracted via an interlocal agreement the Cameron County Housing Authority (CCHA) to assist with the implementation of the ERA Program. The CCHA developed and implemented its strategy during the 4th Quarter to start January 2022.</p> <p>Furthermore, the County created an Inhouse Program Operation to also assist with the implementation of the ERA Program. The Inhouse Program Operation was also development during the 4th Quarter to start January 2022.</p> <p>The Cameron County staffed the Inhouse Program Operation with the following personnel: Office Director or Fiscal Analyst Supervisor (50%) Fiscal Analyst (100%) Two (2) Intake/Process Assistants (100%) If necessary and expected, two additional Intake/Process Assistants will be employed.</p> <p>Another proactive step taken by ARPA Office: The County has 10 Justice of the Peace (JP) Courts covering the whole county. These JP Courts are the courts that adjudicate evictions for non-payment of rent and other issues. As such, the ARPA has established a coordinated communication system with the JP Courts in which the courts automatically referred the eviction cases to the Intake/Process Assistants. The Intake/Process Assistants then directly communicate with the tenants being evicted and the corresponding landlords. The process allows for the landlords to temporarily pause the eviction process in order for the tenant</p>
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to apply and obtain the necessary rental assistance and thus avoid the eviction. This effort too will generate additional applications for assistance.

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Another proactive step to be taken during the first quarter of 2022 is the enhancement of the promotion of the ERA Program. Now that the improvement process has been set in place, Cameron County will increase the promotion activities throughout Cameron County. This promotion will direct potential applicants to Cameron County's Inhouse Program Operation, to CDCB and to CCHA.

Further, the CCHA is coordinating with five (5) other municipal housing authorities in the Cameron County, which are in the communities of Harlingen, San Benito, Brownsville, Los Fresnos and Port Isabel. This cooperative effort will generate many more applications for assistance.

A total of \$3,261,725 of the \$12,191,234 or 27% has been expended as of December 31, 2021. This leaves a balance of \$8,929,509 to be used by September 30, 2022. Therefore, Cameron County must use \$992,167 on a monthly basis to exhaust the total grant amount by September 30, 2022. This is the goal to meet during the next quarter and thereafter. Completed by December 31, 2021: As part of the Plan, the Cameron County's Administration reassigned the administration and management of the ERA 1 & 2 Grants to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Office.

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Two (2) Intake/Process Assistants (100%)

If necessary and expected, two additional Intake/Process

Performance Narrative

Assistants will be employed.

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Narrative on Effective Practices

One: The County has 10 Justice of the Peace (JP) Courts covering the whole county. These JP Courts are the courts that adjudicate evictions for non-payment of rent and other issues. As such, the ARPA has established a coordinated communication system with the JP Courts in which the courts automatically referred the eviction cases to the ERA Program Intake/Process Assistants. The Intake/Process Assistants then directly communicate with the tenants being evicted and the corresponding landlords and initiate the application for assistance process. The process allows for the landlords to temporarily pause the eviction process in order for the tenant to apply and obtain the necessary rental assistance and; thus, avoid the eviction. This effort too will generate additional applications for assistance.

Two: The Cameron County Housing Authority (CCHA) is coordinating with five (5) other municipal housing authorities in the Cameron County area, which are in the communities of Harlingen, San Benito, Brownsville, Los Fresnos and Port Isabel. This cooperative effort will generate many more applications for assistance.

Federal Financial Reporting

Current Quarter Obligations	\$319,625.20
Current Quarter Expenditures	\$1,271,777.73
Cumulative Obligations to Date	\$437,609.08
Cumulative Expenditures to Date	\$3,590,710.50

Certification

Name	Victor G Trevino
Telephone	956-372-1249
Title	Fiscal Analyst Supervisor
Email	victor.trevino@co.cameron.tx.us
Submission Date	2/1/2022 7:09 PM