

ERA Compliance Report - Cameron County, Texas - ERA 2 Quarter 3 2023

Report Period : Quarter 3 2023 (July-September)

Recipient Profile

Recipient Information

Recipient DUNS	010546679
Recipient DUNS (+4)	0105
Recipient TIN	746000420
Recipient Legal Entity Name	CAMERON, COUNTY OF
Recipient Type	Local Government
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)	ERAE0198
CFDA #	21.023
Award Date	5/13/2021
Grant Funds Received	\$10,092,776.49
Recipient Project ID	ERA2-0706
Name of the ERA Project	Cameron County, Texas ERA2 Project
ERA Project Website URL	https://cdcb.org/rental-assistance
Geographic Service Area	County-Wide
System for Prioritizing Assistance Narrative	<p>System for Prioritizing Assistance Narrative</p> <p>Cameron County has been able to assist all qualified families as they apply without any delays; therefore, it has not been necessary to prioritize applicants. The only specific group of applicants being prioritized are those tenants facing eviction and/or disconnection of utility services.</p> <p>According to the most current census data Cameron County as a whole has a population that is considered low income. While there is prioritization of persons facing imminent eviction, we have found that much of our population and the overwhelming majority of our applicants are below 50% AMI.</p>
	<p>As the Treasury Department is aware, Cameron County was required to produce an Improvement Plan, because of lack of productivity with its Emergency Assistance (ERA) Program. The Improvement Plan was created and the Treasury Department subsequently approved it. As such, Cameron County continues to implement the Improvement Plan with significant success in increasing productivity; thus, more families are being assisted.</p> <p>Another program dilemma was that Cameron County had been operating the ERA 1 & 2 Programs by first expanding the ERA 1 Funds. Once these funds would be expended in total, then Cameron County would start expending the ERA 2 Funds by no later than October 1, 2022 after the ERA 1 Program ended. Unfortunately, Cameron County had not anticipated the announced ERA 2 threshold spending requirements of spending at least 60% of the initial advanced allocation for ERA2 (\$5,329,157.71) by September 30, 2022 the end date for ERA 1. As we are aware, noncompliance with this would result in reallocation of the remaining ERA 2 funds.</p> <p>The initial requirement to spend 20% by March 31, 2022 was impossible for Cameron County. Fortunately, the Treasury Department allowed Cameron County to spend the 20% or \$1,065,831.54 by April 30, 2022. The second requirement is to send another 20% by June 30, 2022 or within the two months of May and June. Cameron County spent \$1,100,568.72 or 20% during the two-month period. The</p>

Project Description	<p>third requirement is to spend a third 20% by September 30, 2022 or during the three-month period, which will not be a problem for Cameron County.</p> <p>In addition to the above, Cameron County must and will exhaust all ERA 1 Funds during the same period of time. Based on the productivity through June 30, 2022, Cameron County will exhaust all of ERA 1 Funds by such deadline. Cameron County has to exhaust \$2,270,153.25 by September 30, 2022 or \$756,720 as a monthly average for the July, August and September.</p> <p>As noted before, Cameron County’s productivity has also increased due to the following three specific undertakings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Coordination with the Cameron County’s 10 Justice of the Peace (JP) Courts. These JP Courts are the courts that adjudicate evictions for non-payment of rent and other issues. As such, the ERA Inhouse staff 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. This process has avoided many evictions. 2) Entering into an interlocal agreement with the Cameron County Housing Authority (CCHA). 3) Creation of an Inhouse ERA Implementation Program being operated by Cameron County’s American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) Office. <p>Furthermore, Cameron County has started and will continue to coordinate with additional nonprofits operating in the county to conduct outreach and referrals for the ERA Program.</p>
Use of Fact Based Proxies for Determining Eligibility	No
Explanation for Use of Fact Based Proxies for Determining Eligibility	

Demographics

ERA Applicants

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

ERA Assistance Provided

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

Participant Households at Certain Income Levels

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

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	
Total Dollar Amount of ERA funds Paid (Expended) for Administrative Expenses	
Total Dollar Amount of ERA Award Funds Approved (Obligated) for Administrative Expenses	
Total Dollar Amount of ERA Award Funds Paid (Expended) for Housing Stability Services	
Total Dollar Amount of ERA Award Funds Approved (Obligated) for Housing Stability Services	

Performance & Financial Report

Performance Narrative	<p>On May 13, 2023, a tornado struck a section of the Laguna Heights community in Cameron County. Major parts of this community or Colonia have been annexed by the neighboring cities Port Isabel and Laguna Vista. Ironically, the part not annexed was the area struck by the tornado. Thus, Cameron County government moved to assist the victims who were renting house trailers and/or mobile homes. The dwelling structures were destroyed by the tornado; thus, the families were left homeless.</p> <p>Under the direction of Cameron County's Emergency Preparedness Department and in coordination with the Salvation Army and the Red Cross, a shelter was made available for the families. The Salvation Army was able to temporarily place some of the families in area motels. Fortunately, the County's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program assumed the hotel cost for 32 families. Many of these families still remain in the motels - now on their fifth month. Some families have found other rental units; the ERA Program has paid the rent, including security deposits, for the initial three (3) months. To date, the County's ERA Program has expended over \$190,000 for the above. The ERA Program will continue to assist these families until funds are exhausted which should be within the next three (3) months, which should incur an additional estimated cost of \$50,000 to \$75,000.</p>
Narrative on Effective Practices	Cameron County should exhaust all rental assistance funds by the end of the next quarter (2023 / 4th Quarter October - December).

Federal Financial Reporting

Current Quarter Obligations	\$321,666.70
Current Quarter Expenditures	\$321,666.70
Cumulative Obligations to Date	\$9,514,303.14
Cumulative Expenditures to Date	\$9,514,303.14

Certification

Name	Victor G Trevino
Telephone	956-372-1249
Title	Fiscal Analyst Supervisor
Email	victor.trevino@co.cameron.tx.us
Submission Date	10/12/2023 2:06 PM