

January 24, 2024

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic was declared a public health disaster in the United States in January 2020; and

WHEREAS, since the first case of COVID-19 was discovered, the disease has infected over 32 million and killed over 575,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the City of Dallas developed the Dallas Eviction Assistance Initiative to continue the mitigation of evictions in Dallas. The initiative established an eviction program where direct legal services are provided to Dallas residents who are lower income as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, specifically those at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and residents negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2021, the City Council authorized a subrecipient agreement with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas to provide legal services to Dallas residential tenants at risk of eviction and homelessness due to financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for the period December 31, 2020, through December 31, 2021, by Resolution No. 21-0167; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, the City Council authorized the final reading and adoption of the appropriation ordinance for the FY 2021-22 City of Dallas Operating, Capital, and Grant & Trust Budgets, which included the ARPA funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds by Resolution No. 21-1590; and

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2022, the City Council authorized to a subrecipient agreement with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (511627), to provide legal services to residential tenants at risk of eviction and homelessness due to financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic for the Office of Equity and Inclusion for a term of eighteen-months, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. The contract between the City and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas was signed for the Eviction Assistance Initiative by Resolution No. 22-0986; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic still impact tenants facing evictions; and filings for evictions continue to increase, making legal services an increasing need; and

WHEREAS, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is a qualified organization with expertise in providing legal services to residential tenants facing eviction and homelessness.

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Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a twelve-month subrecipient agreement with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, approved as to form by the City Attorney, to serve as an extension to the contract to provide legal services to Dallas residential tenants at risk of eviction and homelessness due to financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, allocated from District 7 (\$115,000.00) and from District 14 (\$125,000.00) in an amount not to exceed \$240,000.00 for this initiative for the period February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

SECTION 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager shall keep the appropriate City Council Committee informed of all final granting agency monitoring reports not later than 30 days after the receipt of the report.

SECTION 4. That the City Manager or his designee is authorized to provide additional information, make adjustments, and take other actions related to the implementation of the grant as necessary to satisfy any legal or regulatory obligations associated with the grant funding.

SECTION 5. That the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to disburse funds in an amount not to exceed \$240,000.00 to Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas from Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Fund FC18, Department MGT, Unit AD32, Object 3070, Vendor 511627.

SECTION 6. That these contracts are designated as Contract No. FHO-2024-00023855 for District 7 and Contract No. FHO-2024-00023856 for District 14.

SECTION 7. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.