



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

Council Bill 120018: Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance

TRACI RATZLIFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
FINANCE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE
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Council Bill 120018: Summary

- Accepts and authorizes spending of the \$22.7 million allocated to the City from the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, passed in December 2020
- Builds on framework established for COVID-19 rental assistance provided over the last year
- Proposed uses include rent & utility assistance

Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance Eligibility

Eligible Households

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Has a household income at or below 80% AMI.

Eligible Costs

- 90% for direct financial assistance, including rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing
- 10% for housing stability services and administrative costs

Ongoing Need for Rental Assistance

- > 13,000 Seattle renters behind on rent payments
- Typical arrears of 1.5 to 3 months (\$3,000 - \$5,000 per household)
- 11% of white households report behind on rent payments compared to 21% of Latino households and 18% of black households

Source: Extrapolated from Seattle-Bellevue-Tacoma Metro Area Pulse Survey

Proposed Allocations of \$22.7 million

Amount	Administrator	Purpose
\$ 8 million	United Way	Rental assistance for low-income tenants and small landlords applying on behalf of eligible tenants.
\$ 7 million	Office of Housing	Rental assistance for the low-income tenants in publicly subsidized affordable housing.
\$6.2 million	Community Based Organizations	Rental assistance and support services for low-income tenants disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
\$1.5 million	Seattle City Light Seattle Public Utilities	Emergency utility assistance for low-income renters with outstanding utility bills.

Proposed Amendments to CB 120018

- 1. Eliminate the \$1.5 million proposed for utility assistance and reallocates those funds to rental assistance programs (\$750,000 to United Way and \$750,000 to Office of Housing)**
– Councilmember Mosqueda
- 2. Add internet services as an eligible cost for rental assistance funding**
– Councilmember Mosqueda on behalf of Councilmember Pedersen
- 3. Require proactive outreach to landlords regarding available rental assistance funding**
– Councilmember Herbold

Questions?