

Chatham County, GA

✉ [Chatham County, Georgia | Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(ERAP\)](https://chathamcountyga.gov)
(chathamcountyga.gov)

Emergency Rental Assistance Program I



ERA1 Project Overview

Closeout Report | US Department of the Treasury | April 2023



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ERA I Project Overview

ERA I Project Final Summary Narrative

Accomplishments

The Chatham County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) provided financial assistance through contracts with an array of local community-based non-profit organizations, to eligible households for the payment of rent, rental arrears, utilities (electricity, gas, water and sewer, trash removal), utilities arrears, home energy costs (fuel oil), Internet services and other expenses related to housing like relocation expenses, and temporary shelter/apartment.

Chatham County has worked to ensure we can provide citizens with a selection of opportunities that best meet their needs to reduce eviction and provide services to the most vulnerable citizens providing other housing services for eligible households, kids, and/or facing homelessness and/or housing instability due directly or indirectly to COVID-19. The major goal of this projects is to help prevent the spread of transmission of the COVID-19 virus and ensure Chatham County residents remain stably housed.

Chatham County received \$8,712,085.20 in February 2021 to launch the ERAP. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) executed contracts with an array of local community-based non-profit organizations to support individuals and families at risk of eviction and or homeless due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After encumbering 95% of the original allocation, the BOC was interested in implementing different outreach strategies and therefore released solicitation for administration of the ERAP. On May 14, 2022, Chatham County was notified that the US Treasury was providing additional funds in the amount of \$9,200,320.80 as requested through voluntarily reallocated funds from the State of Georgia. Once these funds were accepted by the Board of Commissioners, an amendment was made to the contract with the third-party vendor in order for them to pause the ERA2 program and start working on the applications to be funded using the ERA1 reallocated funds. The goal of the third-party vendor for the Chatham County COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program is to:

- 1) provide coordinated telephonic entry point access to reduce the need for in-person interactions.
- 2) simplify the screening and eligibility process to reduce burdens on clients.
- 3) track data to assess impact and adjust services throughout phases of both the public health and economic crises.

Through this approach, the third-party vendor oversaw and fully executed Chatham County's program goals, which include: 1) providing rental, utility and/or security deposit assistance to the Chatham County residents; 2) creating a network of Enrollment Specialists to market the program; and 3) creating seamless access and entry points.

With a population of 291,012¹ people as of 2022, through the ERAP, funded as defined by legislation by US Treasury, Chatham County has financially assisted 3,159 of unique households across the eight municipalities and the unincorporated portions within the County (see Figure 1).

¹ [Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition :: Demographics :: County :: Chatham \(coastalgaindicator.org\)](https://coastalga.org/indicators-coalition/demographics-county-chatham) – Updated 2022 census data.

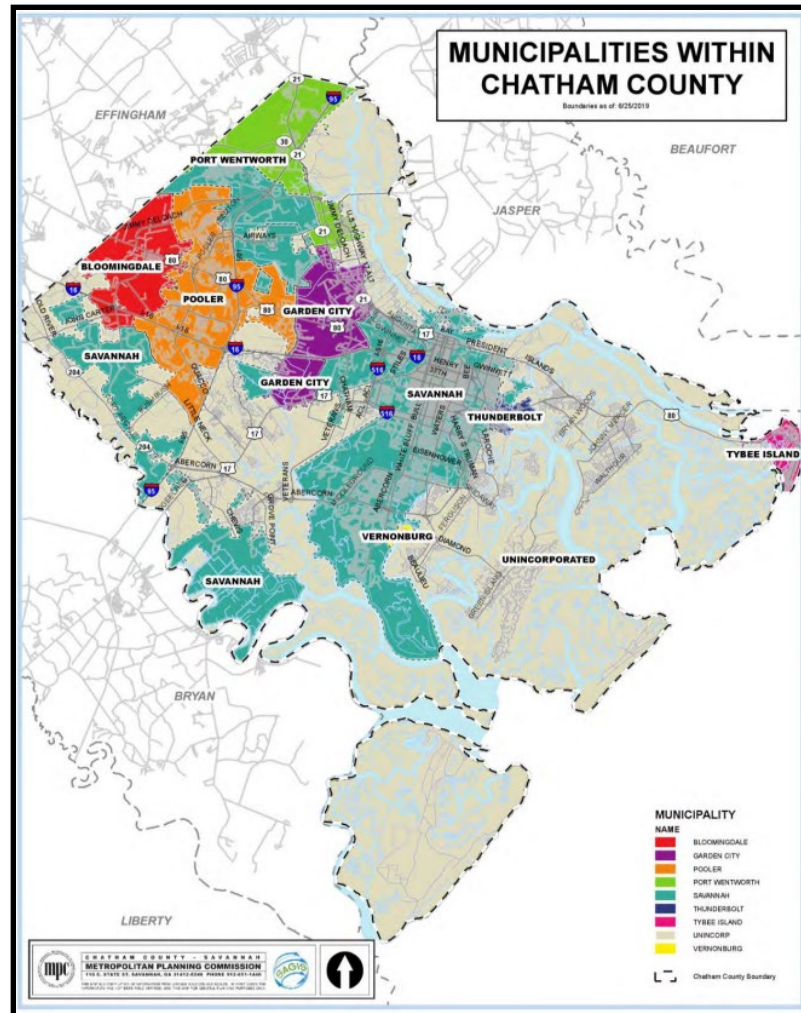


Figure 1 - Chatham County map

Chatham County and the agencies participating in the ERA program worked arduously to establish working relationships with other agencies across the County, like hospitals, primary healthcare providers, schools, among other, trying to ensure that the households/individuals affected by the COVID-19 were placed in a secure and stable place. The County was able to house over 34 families through the Apartment Shelter program in partnership with Family Promise and transitioning 21 of those families into a permanent housing.

The opportunity to providing case managing and wrap-around services to households applying for assistance through the partnerships with the community-based non-profits, allowed the households in need to receive other services like mental health counseling, physical and dental care, clothing, and food.

Application Process

ERAPI – Original Allocation

Applications for the Chatham County Emergency Rental Assistance Program started at the beginning of February 2021.

Due to the pandemic and social distancing practices, applicants were advised to make contact with any of the service providers in Chatham County to begin the application process and then proceed to an online portal when applicable. Some individuals were advised to schedule an appointment if necessary for assistance in completing the application.

The UWCE 2-1-1 call center was available as a point of access to the community by taking calls from the participants requesting information.

Chatham County applicants were encouraged to submit their applications with the required supporting documentation in order to provide a better service. Applications were reviewed for eligibility based upon when all documentation has been successfully submitted.

Applications were accepted and processed in order, subject to prioritization based upon eligibility.

The agents or case managers reviewed completed applications for eligibility and initiated communication with the tenant for additional documentation if needed. Case managers continued to work with tenants on incomplete applications for a limited time frame.

The agent or case manager would follow up with the tenant and/or landlord, up to three times, to collect any documents or correct any issues with the application. If after a contact had been made, the tenant was given 5-7 business days to provide the requested information. If no documentation was provided after this time, the application was marked as incomplete. Additional follow ups were considered if staff capacity allowed for it. The service provider had the right to consider the application closed when the applicant remains unresponsive after documented efforts to establish contact were not successful.

Applications that are marked complete will be moved forward for review and payment. The Chatham County ERAP Funds were distributed directly to landlords or utility companies, until the final couple of months, in October 2022 the BOC permitted the third-party vendor to distribute funds directly to the tenant under specifically defined circumstances for no more than two months.

If an application did not meet the eligibility criteria, the agent would contact the applicant to confirm the decision. If the applicant believes that this decision was not correct, they were allowed to appeal the decision by submitting a formal request to the service provider for further review.

All case intake paperwork, eligibility supporting documentation and any other documentation related to the assistance provided was uploaded into each client's case in Charity Tracker initially and then Neighborly upon expanded. All records will be maintained for a period of five (5) years after all funds have been expended or returned to US Treasury.

ERAPI – Reallocation

Between July 1, 2022 – December 29, 2022, a total of 3317 individuals submitted applications through the online portal. The online portal was available via the website:

<https://www.chathamcountyga.gov/OurCounty/EmergencyRental>

To ensure resources would be available for eligible residents, applicants were given 45 days to complete and submit their application. FAQs and other guidance documents were provided to ensure applicants understood the eligibility criteria. If participants met the initial screening criteria, they were able to submit their application. Applications were then assigned an enrollment specialist and reviewed using a reviewer checklist. As part of this process staff verified the ownership of rental property using County records as well as ensuring the property fell within the geographic restrictions set forth by the program as denoted by GIS mapping.

If applicants failed to meet the criteria after review, they were deemed ineligible and sent a denial letter. However, depending on the reason for denial, this did not mean that individuals could not come back and reapply if circumstances had changed. Information and the process for appeals were provided to applicants who were denied.

ERAPI – Eligibility Process

Tenant eligibility: Eligible means a household of one or more individuals who are obligated to pay rent on a residential dwelling. The primary applicant should be the signee on the lease agreement and/or utility invoice. All applicants should provide documentation as proof of need and payments will be made directly to landlords and utility companies. The applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1) For ERA1:

- a) One or more individuals within the household has qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income due to loss of job, reduced work hours, need to take care of kids out of school, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- b) One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness (eviction notice, past due rent notice, or past due utility bill) or housing instability.
- c) The household has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income.
- d) Place of residence must be within Chatham County limits.
- e) Place of residence must be a rental property, single or multi-family home, or mobile home.

Landlord: A landlord can start the application on behalf of the tenant, as long as all the documentation is provided and verified for tenant eligibility.

- ✓ Contact information.
- ✓ W-9 Form.
- ✓ Photo ID.

- ✓ Proof of ownership
- ✓ Lease agreement and tenant billing statement.

System for prioritization assistance.

Qualified households of Chatham County will be prioritized based on:

- a) Households at risk of eviction or homelessness.
- b) Households with income of 50% or less than the Area Median Income (AMI); or
- c) Households with one or more members that have been unemployed for at least 90 days.

Project Governance and Management Structure

The decision-making process in Chatham County begins at the Board of Commissioners. Chatham County has an array of county departments and/or units of governments. Each one lead by a director, administrator, or manager. Staff seeking any type of grant and responsible for the implementation of activities or programs as defined by the award should prepared a document (agenda item – staff report) to be presented to the Board of Commissioners (“BOC”) explaining the purpose of the grant, any match requirements, among other information, the application should be attached, and it should request that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign all documents pertaining to the grant. Once the BOC approves, staff will proceed with the application.

The County official designated to accept and sign all the grant documentation is the County Commission Chairman. All grant awards require approval from the BOC. However, in some cases the turn-around time to accept is short. Therefore, the Chairman must accept the funds before approved by the BOC. No other action can be taken until the BOC approval.

If the grant is awarded, the BOC will accept funds and allow establishment of the budget. The project accountant will assign a fund number and project number to the award which should be included in the agenda item as well. Once approved by the BOC, departments, or units of government responsible for implementation as defined and approved by the BOC may need to provide a more detailed budget through electronic software to ensure the appropriate expenditures. In the cases that expenditures are associated with external contracts and/or agreements; those will require prior approval by the BOC.

All revisions and or change orders are to be presented and approved by the BOC. If financial aid is not approved, funding will not be drawn down. In the event, the funds are automatically deposited into the county’s bank account they will be returned to the awarding agency.

Once the award is accepted by the County, copies of the executed award documents and all pertinent information should be sent to the Finance Department: one to the Budget Analyst and one to the Grant Accountant. Finance will establish appropriate general ledger accounts to assure fiscal accountability. The Budget Analyst also adds budget amendments to project ledger.

In some cases, other county departments may be assigned to work on grant funded projects that overlap of with the priorities of the BOC and alignment with the long-range strategic plan referenced as Chatham Community Blueprint. The project manager designated by the grantee department is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the project, for ensuring that program activity assigned to the grant meets the grant specifications, programmatic and performance indicators, also serves as a point of contact and authorized reporting agent for the project contingent on the award requirements.

ERAP is a project that involves representation from **finance, strategic planning**, and external contractors. Due to the complex nature of the ERAP award the County created a new position “Grant Administrator” as the staff responsible to assist with the adequate execution, reporting, monitoring, compliance, keep up to date with Treasury’s requirements, among other activities, this position serves as a liaison between the Project Manager and the Grant Accountant.

The financial reports are available to the department head/project manager in the financial reporting system as needed for the submission of the reports. If an inconsistency or discrepancy is found, it should be reported to the Grant Accountant for resolution and/or reconciliation. Programmatic reports are reviewed and submitted as appropriate per the funding agency and executed agreement. All federal expenditures are required to be adequately supported. The request for payments relating to the grant are approved electronically, through the financial system’s workflow, by personnel that are knowledgeable of the allowable costs per the grant award and federal guidelines. The documentation is retained in the system in accordance with Federal and State record retention policies.

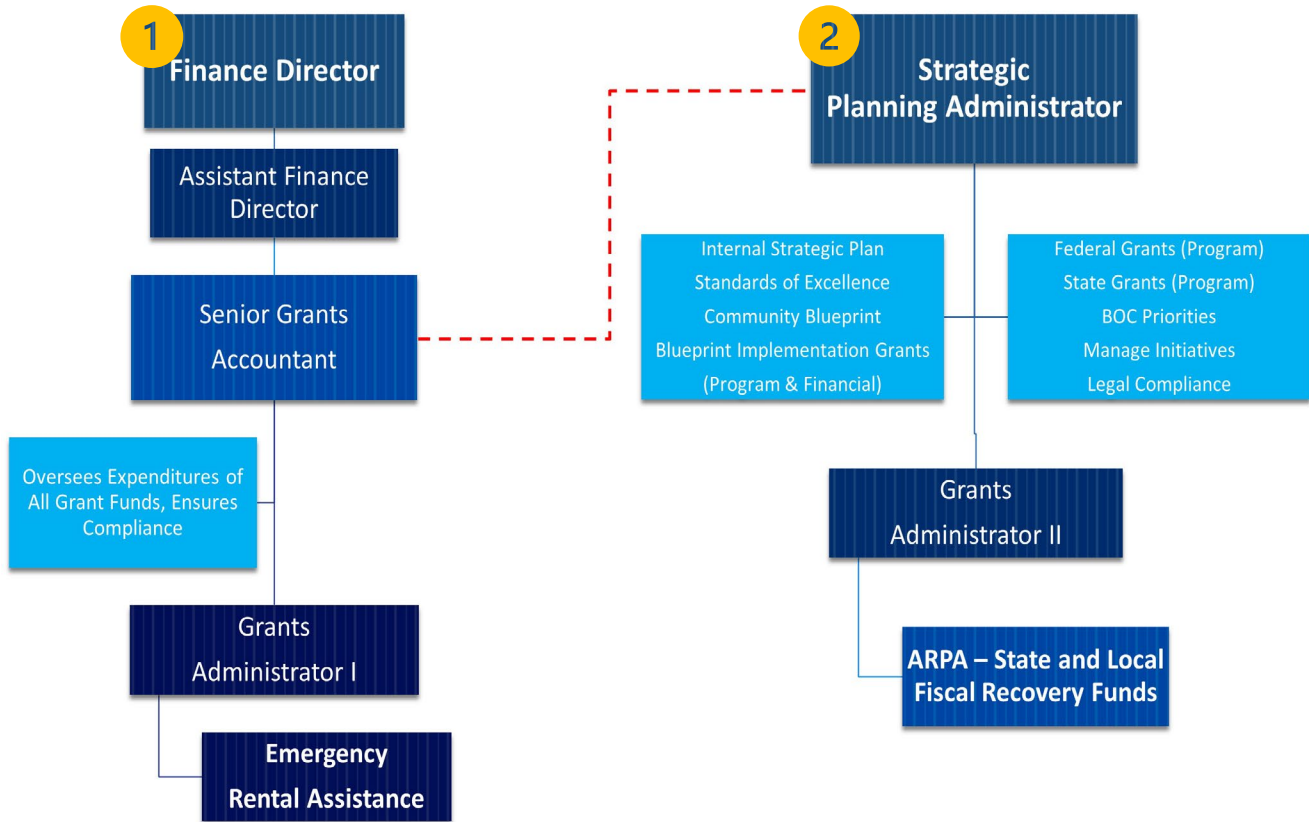
The Budget Analyst is included in the approval workflow to monitor expenditures to ensure they are within the budget. In addition, the Grant Administrator must ensure these expenditures are allowable per the award.

The Grant Accountant is responsible for preparing the year-end Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) and providing oversight on the policies and procedures. The SEFA is reviewed by the Assistant Finance Director and submitted to the external auditors for a final review.

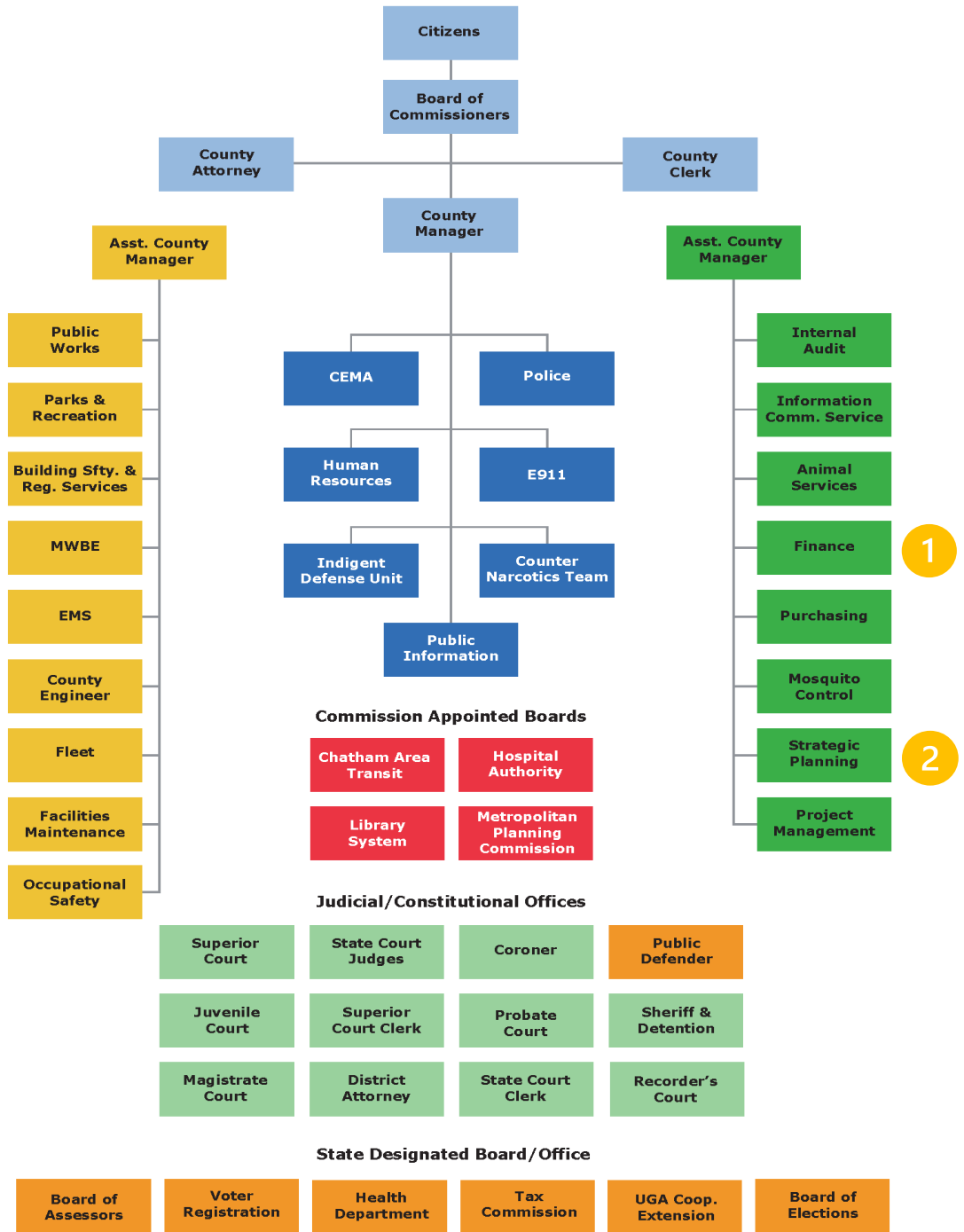
The Strategic Planning Administrator, as mentioned before, is the project manager for the ERAP project chosen by the BOC and management team, due to this grant being awarded directly to the County from the US Treasury. The Strategic Planning Administrator’s role for Chatham County is the individual responsible for ensuring alignment with the County’s priorities, goals, and objectives. In the ERAP program strategic planning staff assisted in defining internal and external partnerships to establish an efficient network for success distribution of the funds. The outreach strategies were constantly evaluated based on their effectiveness and the plan was a re-assessed and then amended as necessary, making sure that the County was adapting to best practices meanwhile compliant with the changes from the US Treasury.

The Strategic Planning Administrator has open communication with the parties involved in the program, and has been given the authority to make immediate decisions when necessary, however, all contract amendments impacting program or funding are approved by the Board.

ERAP Organizational Chart



Chatham County Organizational Chart



Key Participating Organizations

Chatham County has partnered with local community-based non-profit organizations (“Service providers”) to support and help to speed the delivery of the assistance to households in need during the public health emergency. These service providers are:

1. United Way of the Coastal Empire, Inc.
2. Economic Opportunity Authority of Savannah-Chatham County (EOA).
3. Family Promise of the Coastal Empire, Inc.
4. Greenbriar Children's Center.
5. Park Place Outreach, Inc.
6. Union Mission, Inc.

Also, the County have contracted with a third-party vendor – Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN)- to work initially on the ERA2 program, however, when the ERA1-reallocated funds were made available to the County, this company was requested to move to work with the reallocated funds.

In addition to large scale events, information regarding the program was disseminated through various partnerships such as Georgia Power, City of Savannah Utilities as well as several faith-based and community-based organizations. United Way 2-1-1 also provided referrals to the ERA program to individuals seeking emergency rent and utility assistance.

The Chatham ERAP Team partnered with the Georgia Power Energy Assistance Team, led by Danny Johnson to implement ERAP marketing strategies directly to GA Power customers. GA Power Efforts for ERAP 1 included:

- Direct Emails, Postcards, and Outbound Phone Calls to Chatham County Residents, who are 30 days past due on their electricity bills.
- Access to the Georgia Power Energy Assistance Portal, which allows the team to view accounts and send pledge letters to prevent shutoff.
- Data Sharing Agreement, which allowed for Georgia Power to share names, addresses, and utility account information for past due customers in Chatham County.

In response to the Eviction Moratorium ending July 2021, Chatham County Leadership coordinated efforts to engage the Magistrate Court to connect active eviction hearing tenants to the ERA Program. Efforts included:

- Court Administrator provides Eviction Court Docket to ERAP Team on a weekly basis.
- Two ERAP Eviction Specialist were assigned to provide in-person assistance on a weekly basis Tuesdays and Fridays at the Moses Jackson Community Center
- Escalated eligibility process to complete payments within two weeks.
- Landlords were able to pick up checks on Tuesdays to ensure timely delivery of payment.

In response to high water bills impacting residents, the Chatham ERAP team partnered with the City of Savannah Utility Services. Based on a review of eligible applicants, a high number included in their

requests for assistance help with paying their water bills, some in arrears for as much as \$3,000. Working with the City of Savannah Utility Services, the ERAP team was able to get the necessary documentation to expedite payments. The City of Savannah Utility Services also helped to promote the program to residents.

Outreach Strategies Used

- ✓ The County's website was revised in February to reflect the ERA program and has constantly been updated to keep information current and available to the public. Also, our partners/agencies provided information on their websites with the information about the program.
- ✓ Chatham County hosted a municipal meetings to inform all city managers and elected officials of the program and encourage their support and assistance in notifying their residents.
- ✓ Chatham County as well as the contracted service providers listed in previous section continuously used of social media to reach out to the community.
- ✓ Flyers and other kind of documents involving information regarding the Chatham County Emergency Rental Assistance program have been created in English and Spanish. These documents were available on the County's website, in the eight municipalities within the County, local libraries, magistrate court, churches, and other organizations throughout the Chatham County community. (See attachment "A")
- ✓ Chatham County hosted a forum targeting property management companies and landlords to educate them on the program, inform them of the opportunity and encourage their consideration of referral for potential clients in need.
- ✓ Partnership have been made with local property management and local utility companies to create bulk applications, or at least have a contact list of households that need to be contacted and screened for eligibility.
- ✓ The ERAAdmin@chathamcounty.gov, was created to provide more information and/or to respond to questions about the Chatham County ERA Program, and to maintain open communication with constituents.
- ✓ We created a pre-qualification questionnaire for individuals to check whether or no they qualified for financial assistance prior to fill out an application. This is a web form document that allowed the eligible individuals to upload documents to start the application process. This strategy was primarily used with of the ERA2 program.
- ✓ In person events created an opportunity to reach out to tenants and landlords to know about the program and complete the applications. Also, specific events targeting the tenants on the eviction lists provided by Magistrate Court.
- ✓ Advertising on social media and used of local media to promote the program.
- ✓ Work with other partners providing community referrals among the agencies within the network.
- ✓ We participated in community events providing flyers and information to potential households in need.

- ✓ We provided the information to the School board, for them to refer eligible families within the schools to our program.
- ✓ The partnership with United Way 211 line, for them to provide information and referrals based on needs and availability of funding.
- ✓ To reach more potential applicants, the Chatham ERAP Team implemented regular outreach events, which increased the amount of good and ready-to go applications that could get processed. Between July 1, 2022 – December 31st, 2022, the Chatham ERAP team has hosted 7 enrollment events attended by 200 residents. (See attachment “B”)

Services Provided

Chatham County provided financial assistance to eligible households to pay for:

- ✓ Rent and Rental arrears: Assistance should be provided for a period of up to 15 months, with the option of 12 months in arrears plus additional 3 months of prospective rent, but in no case a household should receive more than 15 months of assistance. There may be cases where the assistance provided was for 3-6 months in prospective payments based on the need and availability of funds.
- ✓ Utilities and Utilities arrears: No more than 15 months of assistance should be provided to pay for utility bills like: electricity, water, gas, sanitation, trash removal, Internet services.
- ✓ Other housing expenses: like security deposits, moving expenses, hotel/motel stay under certain circumstances, among other services related to housing, based upon the case review and availability of funds.

These services were offered along with case management across the process to ensure the households were receiving the right services based on their needs. The case manager was in charge of assisting the households with the application and the collection of the supporting documents, reach out to the landlord and/or utility company, and makes a referral to legal aid agents for any legal aspect or counseling as needed for the case.

The United Way 211 line offered the information to households and was in charge of making referrals within the network based on the needs of each household.

Housing Stability Services Provided

ERAPI – Original allocation:

In accordance with the Treasury's eligible uses of these funds, the County opted to provide eligible households with case management and other services related to the COVID-19 outbreak, intended to helping keep households stably housed. Such services included, among other things, eviction prevention and eviction diversion activities; mediation between landlords and tenants; housing counseling; fair housing counseling; housing navigators that help households access ERA programs or finding housing; case management related to housing stability; housing-related services for survivors of domestic abuse or human trafficking; legal services or attorney's fees related to eviction proceedings and maintaining housing stability; and specialized services for individuals with disabilities or seniors that support their ability to access or maintain housing.

Housing Stability Services were provided only with the Original ERAP1 funding received.

Below is the list of the programs supported by the County with the Housing Stability Services funds in partnership with community-based non-profit agencies:

- a) Basic Care program administered by Park Place Outreach, that provides emergency shelter to low-income youth ages 11-17 living in unhealthy and/or insecure conditions due to COVID-19. These youth have access to a case management and other services for them to be stabilized and preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- b) Runaway and homeless youth project administered by Greenbriar Children's Center, Inc., which offered case management to low-income runaway and homeless youth ages 12 to 18 that were living in unhealthy and/or insecure conditions due to COVID-19. These youth have access to a case management and other services for them to be stabilized and preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- c) The emergency housing and supportive services program administered by Union Mission, for individuals returning from the Chatham County detention center, these individuals have access to a case management and other services with the goal of providing a pathway to self-sufficiency and independent living and housing stability in Chatham County and then prevent the spread of transmission of the COVID-19.
- d) The eligible households participating in the Apartment Shelter program with Family Promise, were able to obtain financial assistance to pay for three (3) months of hotel/motel stay while working with the agency in finding a new stable place to move in.
- e) All the eligible households applying for financial assistance also have access to a case management that work with the household throughout the process either staying at the current residency or finding a new place due to being at risk of homelessness, legal services, referrals to other organizations for additional assistance not funded with ERA resources.

Other Affordable Rental Housing and Eviction Prevention Services Provided

Chatham County worked with Georgia Legal Services to offer education and information to families at risk of eviction about their rights and offering guidance on new opportunities. In addition, the County collaborated with The Mediation Center's team providing counseling and mediation services between individuals and landlords as referred by Magistrate Court.

Meanwhile, Magistrate Court was a key partner in addressing the County's eviction diversion strategies. The continue collaboration between the court staff and the agencies administrating the ERA program, helped the agencies to target those households at higher risk of homelessness.

The County stablished a prioritization system built to assist first the households having an eviction on file and/or a utility shut off notice.

Due to several factors, most notably an increase in the number of property owners that did not want to participate in the ERA program, the Chatham ERAP team applied the federal provision allowing for direct payments. After a review of ERA programs from across the country that had experience implementing direct tenant payments, the Chatham ERAP team, in agreement with Chatham County, partnered with MoCaFi, Inc. Direct Tenant payments were made via debit card in amounts of \$3,000 per month. Eligible applicants could get up to 3 months of assistance in direct tenant payments. Funds could only be used for: hotel stay, moving expenses, storage fees, deposits for rent and utilities. Participants were required to provide receipts to verify usage of funds were within program guidelines.

To qualify, applicants needed to:

- ✓ Be active or previously enrolled in the ERA program.
- ✓ Have an eviction case that occurred after May 1, 2022
- ✓ Verify official eviction status – provide writ, notice from the court, or judgement ruling.
- ✓ Document Landlord has refused to participate in the program.

Strict internal controls were put in place for dissemination of cards to program participants including when cards were to be funded, delivery process and acknowledgement of payment by the recipient.

Regarding "Other Affordable Rental Housing" projects, the County is looking to transition to ERAP2 program to access the resources available to explore the opportunity to develop any of the allowable Affordable Rental Housing projects listed by the US Treasury.

Plans for Future action in extending the impact of the ERA project.

After finishing with the ERA1 project, we are transitioning to ERA2 program with the intention of extending the opportunity for the residents that need additional assistance and the households that were affected indirectly by COVID that were not eligible under the ERA1 guidelines.

Continuing to assess the needs of the community and establish the priorities for the County to work towards the development of projects related to affordable housing and reduction of homelessness. The County and all other CoC's partners continuously work in the development of new strategies to assist the homeless and the low-income population.

Lessons learned for implementing emergency rent and utility payment projects generally and in the context of a disaster.

When looking and evaluating for a third-party agency that would administer any program of behalf of the County, we needed to ensure that they have the capacity to handle the workflow and have the tools to quickly adapt the process and perform the required activities in a changing environment like a disaster or emergency situation for which they have been selected/contracted for.

The rapid response is crucial for this kind of programs, however, there is a big need of having the manpower to keep up with the fast and evolving rhythm of the households in need.

When responding to an emergency related to paying the rent or utilities, definitely the payments should be directly to the landlord or utility company and not the tenant, even though Chatham County did not proceed this way, we had the opportunity to learn from other jurisdictions and the State itself that when paying the tenant there is a higher risk of inappropriate use of funds.

The huge gap in the housing market for affordable housing, the homeless population and low-income families are struggling finding stable and affordable housing after the pandemic.

Do not contract with a third-party agency that does not have the capacity to run a program on site, the use of the technology is critical but for programs targeting the vulnerable populations there should be always a person available to assist the applicants and walk them through the process.

Challenges Faced

Although we are proud of our accomplishments thus far; launching a new initiative with new elected leadership in less than 30 days and providing assistance to 3,159 unique households, Chatham County faced the following challenges.

- ✓ Although we Chatham service providers had client tracking software, unfortunately none were aligned with reporting requirements as initially indicated by US Treasury. The team was able to make necessary adjustments, but this took time to develop and implement creating a gap in trend data since launch of the ERAP program.
- ✓ Frequently changing performance measures and reporting requirements from the US Treasury.
- ✓ The capacity limitations and therefore the difficulty managing the number of households trying to access the program. It's difficult to intake applications, review supporting documentation, determine eligibility while making payments on their behalf, answer the enormous inquiries and ensure consistent effective reporting, and specially reducing the risk of fraudulent activity.
- ✓ High risk of fraud due to falsification of documents and/or omission of information.

- ✓ Vendors and County staff have had Individual threats from applicants on eligibility criteria and/or required documentation. Difficulty linking cases due to COVID in order to get the financial assistance under ERA1 guidelines.
- ✓ Concerns with duplication with state-wide efforts. Although County staff has been engaged with our state agency since the inception of ERA, once the State's office decided to expand services state-wide it has created confusion among residents. While we strive for common language and transparency through the processes; data sharing agreement and software to reduce duplication was not executed.
- ✓ Slow referral process between some of the agencies within the network and other agencies like the Jail/Detention Center.
- ✓ Obtaining the appropriated information/documentation from clients and landlords.
- ✓ Struggles locating viable and affordable housing options across the County for families that were displaced and entered the Apartment shelter program, due to the volume of households in need.
- ✓ We had difficulties with the software used at the beginning of the program since it was not created for this specific program, the data was not collected at the beginning with all the specifications that the US Treasury has gradually incorporated.

Attachments

Attachment “A”



Emergency Rental Assistance Program

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

ARE YOU HAVING A HARD TIME PAYING YOUR RENT AND/OR UTILITIES DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19?

? Who is eligible?

Tenants and Landlords on behalf of that eligible household are encouraged to apply.

To be eligible you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- ✓ You must reside within Chatham County area;
- ✓ You must reside in a rental property, single or multi-family home, or mobile home;
- ✓ You must be able to demonstrate that one or more individuals within the household is at risk of experiencing homelessness, housing instability or eviction;
- ✓ Your household income does not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)
- ✓ One or more individuals in the household has qualified for unemployment benefits after March 13, 2020, or experienced loss of income, or other financial hardship due, directly, or indirectly to COVID-19.

? How to apply?

Start the process by applying today at: WWW.CHATHAMERAP.ORG

Also, Chatham County has partnered with local community-based non-profit organizations to support the delivery of assistance:

- 📍 **United Way of the Coastal Empire (UWCE)** – Visit <https://uwce.org/ccera/> or call 211 or (912) 651-7730.
- 📍 **Family Promise of the Coastal Empire, Inc.** – Visit <https://www.familypromisece.org> or call (912) 790-9446.
- 📍 **Greenbriar Children’s Center, Inc.** – Visit <https://greenbriarchildrenscenter.org> or call (912) 234-3431.
- 📍 **Union Mission, Inc.** – Visit <https://www.unionmission.org> or call (912) 238-2777.

For more information, visit our website:
<https://www.chathamcountyga.gov/OurCounty/EmergencyRental>

Attachment “B”




Rent & Utility Assistance

ENROLLMENT EVENT

August 13, 2022 | 9 AM to 2 PM
 Jonesville Baptist Church (Fellowship Hall)
 5201 Montgomery Street
 Savannah, GA 31405

Am I Eligible?

- Must reside within **Chatham County**
- Must be an adult listed on your signed lease agreement
- Place of residence must be a rental property: apartment, single/multi-family home, or mobile home lot
- One or more individuals in the household must have been awarded unemployment benefits or experienced a loss of income/financial hardship directly or indirectly due to **COVID-19**

REGISTER NOW

VISIT EVENTBRITE
ccerapevent.eventbrite.com

REGISTER BY PHONE
(855) 524-2842

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

 www.chathamrap.org