

**SUBJECT:**

**Emergency Rental Assistance Program  
(ERAP2) Memorandum of Understanding with  
MUST Ministries, Inc.**

**MEETING DATE:**

October 4, 2022

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Laura Calfee

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**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Consider approval of the MOU with MUST Ministries, Inc. to administer an Emergency Rental Assistance Program funded by the US Treasury with ERA 2 Funding.

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**FACTS AND ISSUES:**

The American Rescue Plan Act (2021) made available additional funding, with more flexibility, to administer emergency rental assistance to Cherokee County renter households economically and adversely affected, either directly or indirectly, by the COVID-19 pandemic or during the COVID-19 pandemic. The County received 40% of the initial tranche of ERA 2 funding in June 2021 subsequent to Board approval in May of 2021. Efforts were directed to administer ERA 1 funding for assistance due to the sunset date of September 30, 2022 for ERA 1 rather than simultaneous administration of ERA 1 and ERA 2 funding.

MUST Ministries, Inc. vetted 1,568 applications, provided assistance to 678 households, totaling \$5,134,376 in ERA 1 funding. The County plans to continue the rental assistance program in an effort to aid Cherokee County renter households adversely affected by the pandemic. The County will allocate \$2,241,198.47 to MUST Ministries, Inc., plus fees (10%), to continue its rental relief program to help qualified renters who currently reside in single family homes, condos, attached homes, or apartments in Cherokee County to pay their rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing to avoid eviction.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

[ERAP2 Quick Facts](#)

[Budget Amendment\\_Launch of ERA2 Program](#)

[ERA2 MOU - MUST Ministries, Inc.](#)