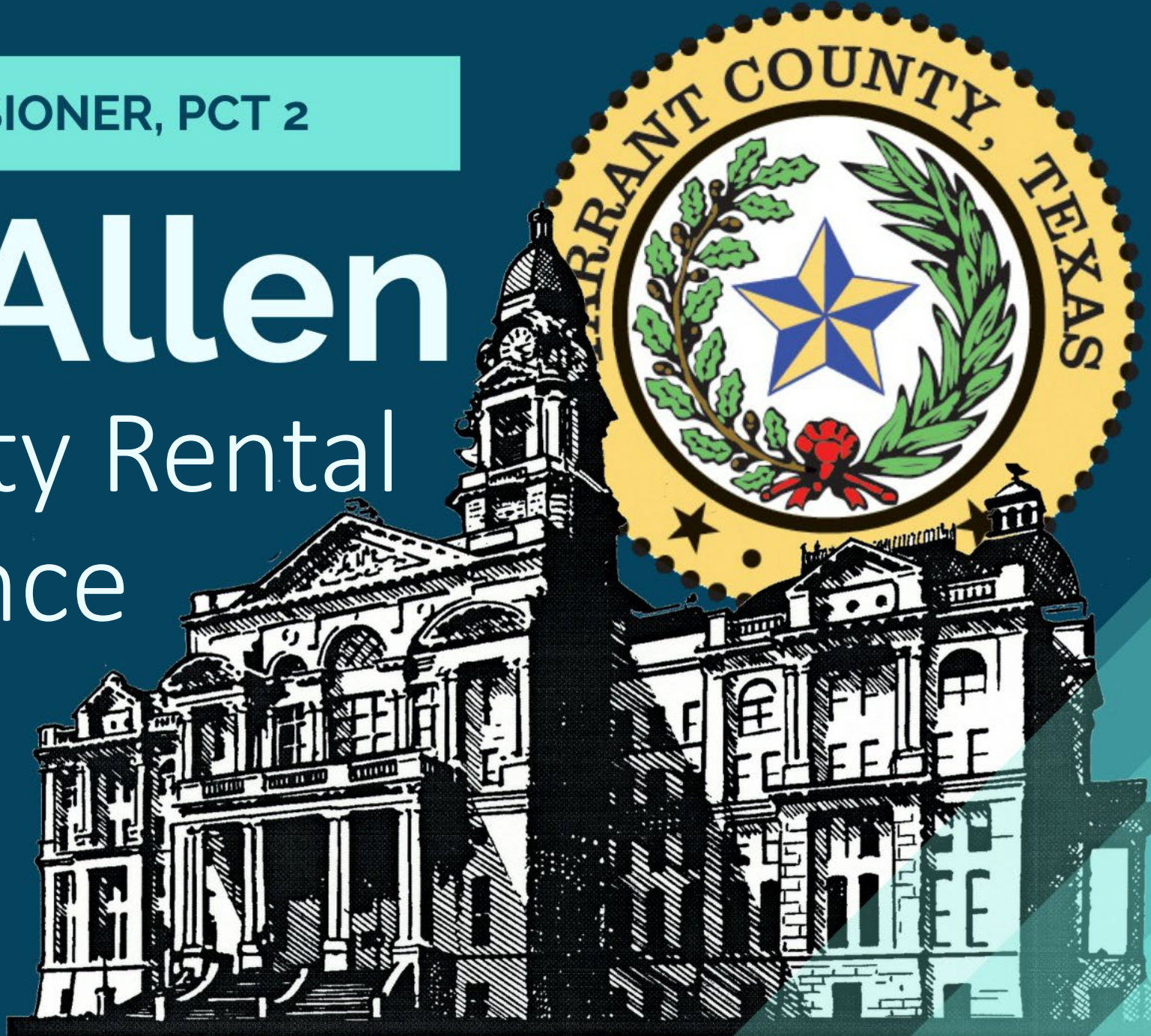


TARRANT COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PCT 2

Devan Allen

Tarrant County Rental Assistance

Conference of Urban Counties
Webinar March 5 2021



CARE 4 TARRANT FINANCIAL IMPACT

Under the CARES Act, Tarrant County received a \$209 million direct distribution of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from the U.S. Treasury. The Tarrant County Commissioners Court has prioritized four pillars to address COVID-19 related needs within the county.



Public Health Pandemic Mitigation • allocated \$30M but far exceeded with vaccination expenses - \$71.5M spent to date.

Tarrant County established widespread free testing for residents; facilitated ~5K tests per day.

- ★ 226,405 tests provided countywide
- ★ 69,463 tests provided in Precinct 2



Social Services • allocated \$20M NGO - \$8.2M spent to date and \$10M Rental Assistance - \$7.1M spent to date.

Tarrant County established the Rental Assistance Program to provide support to residents who experienced income loss or increased cost of childcare due to school closures. Households, on average, received 3.8 months of assistance

- ★ 1,041 households assisted countywide / \$4.2M total awarded
Average award amount \$1,110 per month
- ★ 659 households assisted in Precinct 2 / \$2.7M total awarded
Average award amount \$1,139 per month



Economic Stimulus • allocated \$30M - \$23.3M spent to date.

Tarrant County established the Small Business Assistance Program to provide financial assistance to very small businesses with 25 or less employees.

- ★ 2,920 grants countywide / \$23.3M total awarded
- ★ 1,386 grants in Precinct 2 / \$10.7M total awarded



Local Partners • allocated \$71M - \$68.3M spent to date.

Tarrant County established funds to support municipalities and other partners in COVID-19 response and recovery.

- ★ \$68.3M awarded countywide
- ★ \$28.8M awarded in Precinct 2
Arlington \$21.2M / Dalworthington Gardens \$128,150
Grand Prairie \$3.4M / Kennedale \$420,750
Mansfield \$3.6M / Pantego \$136,400



TARRANT COUNTY					
EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING					
Source	Amount	Income	COVI D	Eviction Notice	Assistance Period
CDBG-CV	\$ 1,500,000	80% AMI	YES	NO	6 months
ESG-CV*	\$ 432,218	50% AMI	YES	YES	6 months
State CDBG-CV TEDP/TERA P	\$ 1,150,787	80% AMI	YES	YES	6 months, at least one month future rent
State ESG- CV	\$ 2,000,000	80% AMI	YES	YES	6 months
U.S. Treasury ERAP	\$ 24,130,690	80% AMI	YES	NO	12 months (15 in some cases)
CARES/CRF	\$ 10,000,000	None	YES	NO	9 months (April - Dec 2020)
TOTAL	\$ 39,213,695				
*Cannot provide rental assistance to those with evictions or notices to vacate due to non-payment under this program while CDC moratorium is in place					

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 50% or 80% AMI
- Proof of tenancy (current lease)
- No duplication of benefits
- COVID-related need for assistance
- In some programs, notice of eviction is required

INCOME	EXTREMELY LOW INCOME	VERY LOW INCOME	LOW INCOME
Household Size	30% AMI	50% AMI	80% AMI
1	\$17,150	28,550	45,650
2	\$19,600	32,600	52,200
3	\$22,050	36,700	58,700
4	\$26,200	40,750	65,200
5	\$30,680	44,050	70,450
6	\$35,160	47,300	75,650
7	\$39,540	50,550	80,850
8	\$44,120	53,800	86,100

Texas Eviction Diversion Program

- \$1.15 million in State-CDBG funding through the Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (TERAP) – program began Feb 1 2021
- Cities of Arlington and Fort Worth received direct distributions
- Coordination between JP Courts and Administrator's staff
- Up to 6 months of rent to landlords for evictions filed for non-payment
- Once agreement is reached, court abates for 60 days
- If eligible for program and assistance provided, case dismissed/sealed
- As of March 1 2021, 21 direct referrals from JP Courts



RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Coronavirus Relief Fund - \$10M allocated

Residents of Tarrant County outside City of Fort Worth

As of March 1 2021 - 1892 households served - \$6,609,737.71

Most common reasons for needing assistance

- Loss of job/reduction in income

- Lack of childcare/school closure

- Medically vulnerable, advised or elected to withdraw from workforce

Most common reason for ineligibility

- Unemployed prior to March 2020 – loss of job not due to COVID-19

- Duplicate application – applied for multiple programs

- Residents of City of Fort Worth – referred to appropriate program

CARE 4 TARRANT

RENTAL ASSISTANCE OUTREACH



Chương Trình
Giảm Tiền Thuê
Nhà đến hạn.

Quận Tarrant
Chương Trình Hỗ Trợ Tiền Thuê Nhà



Tiền thuê nhà của bạn đã đến hạn chưa? Hãy để chúng tôi giúp.

NỘP ĐƠN TRƯỚC NGÀY 9 THÁNG 12

renthelp.tarrantcounty.com
renthelp@tarrantcounty.com
817-850-7940



Strategies

One-Month Focused Campaign (Nov 9-Dec 9)

English, Spanish and Vietnamese

Direct Mail to all apartment units

Yard signs in high-traffic areas

Radio interviews, News segments

Digital Media posts, Streaming services

Results

5.8 million digital impressions

Web traffic increased 250% during campaign

Application submittals increased 200% during campaign



OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER
DEVAN ALLEN
PRECINCT 2



CARE 4 TARRANT

Under the CARES Act, Tarrant County received a \$209 million direct distribution of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from the U.S. Treasury. The Tarrant County Commissioners Court has prioritized four pillars to address COVID-19 related needs within the county.



Rental Assistance Program

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court approved \$10 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds for a Rental Assistance Program. Funds assist with rental payments for those directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistance is available on a first-come, first-serve basis for up to three (3) months subject to periodic review of eligibility. Tarrant County will make final determination of eligibility and the amount of assistance provided. Visit <http://renthelp.tarrantcounty.com> for more information and to apply.



Non-Governmental Organizations Assistance Program

The Tarrant County Commissioners Court allocated \$20M in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to assist non-governmental, 501c3 organizations in the provision of services to individuals directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This program will consider reimbursement of expenses, incurred or anticipated, that are necessary to provide services to aid individuals affected by COVID-19. Visit <http://ngo.tarrantcounty.com> for more information and to apply.



COVID-19 TESTING

Visit <https://covidtesting.tarrantcounty.com> for COVID-19 Self Screening and Testing Appointments.

700 E. Abram St., Ste. 304
Arlington, TX 76010

☎ 817-248-6099 ■ commissionerprecinct2@tarrantcounty.com
🌐 <http://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/commissioner-2>



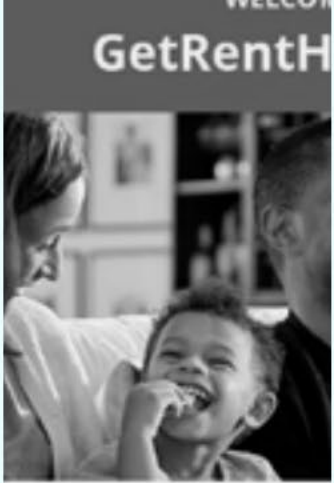
PRECINCT 2 OUTREACH EFFORTS

- Regular Facebook Live Town Halls
- Tele-Town Hall
- Social Media promotion
- Promotional materials in and around Precinct 2 Sub-Courthouses: flyers and yard signs
- Flyer distribution through local churches
- Radio interviews in English and Vietnamese
- TV interviews

CHALLENGES/LESSONS LEARNED



- Underestimated resources needed to meet demand (over 7,000 unique applicants)
- No software tool in place to streamline applications, review process, and track data for reporting
 - Time lost to manual processes and data entry errors
- Did not anticipate the call volume
 - At peak, 300 calls per day from landlords and renters
- Confusion among landlords and renters about which program they should apply for
- Need for a simpler, quicker way to get from application to payment



2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

\$24,130,690 received by U.S. Treasury

Late March program launch

Targeted outreach one month after launch

Changes from 2020 Program

- Online software program specifically designed for ERAP

- Landlord-first application

- Landlord and renter login and status check capability

- Dedicated team of project employees

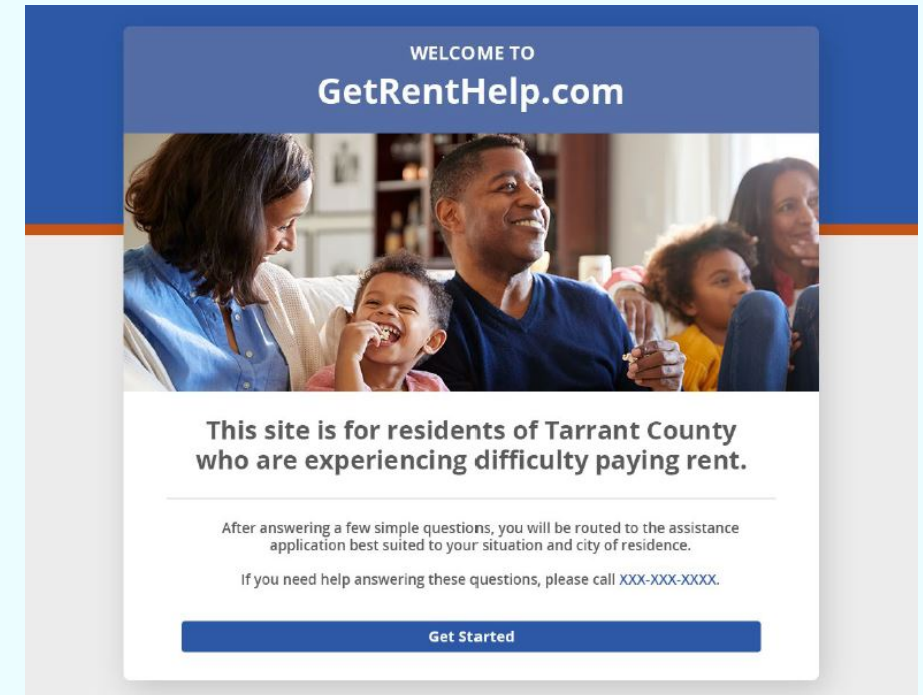
- Call center available 7 days a week, 7 am to 10 pm

Robust data collection for reporting



NEW SCREENING PORTAL - GetRentHelp.com

- All applicants from Tarrant County will be routed through the screening portal as a first step to applying for assistance
- Routes applicants to appropriate jurisdiction and application based on address, household size, income, eviction status, and COVID-related need
- Helps prevent duplication of benefits and streamlines applicant experience for landlords and renters from Arlington, Fort Worth, and the rest of Tarrant County



GetRentHelp.com has not gone live.

THANK YOU,

COMMISSIONER DEVAN ALLEN

P R E C I N C T 2



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