



August 14, 2023

- Marin County Board of Supervisors
- Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters
- Supervisor Katie Rice
- Supervisor Dennis Rodoni
- Supervisor Eric Lucan
- Supervisor Mary Sackett

Dear Esteemed Supervisors:

We write to you as local agencies serving on the frontlines of the housing crisis across Marin. As providers of community-based human services, we stand aligned in our commitment to those in our community who are bearing the brunt of this crisis and facing disproportionate hardship and displacement – people of color, people of low-income, seniors, and people with disabilities. **Together, we urge you to invest at least \$1.3 million in additional one-time funds in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) to prevent the displacement of residents of low-income from Marin.**

A review of zip code data on households who have received ERAP assistance as of August 1, 2023 illustrates that the housing crisis does not have isolated impact in Marin but is impacting people in communities across our County. The zip codes with the highest number of households receiving ERAP assistance include 94901/San Rafael (190 households), 94903/San Rafael (83), 94949/Novato (73), 94965/Sausalito/Marin City/Muir Beach/Belvedere (66), 94947/Novato (55), 94941/Mill Valley (34), 94920/Belvedere Tiburon (28), and 94939/Larkspur/Kentfield (23).

In addition to impacting individuals and families, housing instability and displacement create widespread challenges across our community, negatively impacting local employers, schools, and our collective social fabric and well-being. While ERAP and other types of services are not a solution to the housing crisis, ERAP specifically has allowed eligible tenants to maintain stable housing as they recover from the impacts of the pandemic which has had positive ripple effect across our Marin community.

In the current housing market, we know that when someone with low-income loses housing, they are very unlikely to find other affordable housing in Marin and thus experience displacement. Over this past month the ERAP waitlist has grown to 463 applications and 87% of applicants on the waitlist have incomes below 30% AMI (403 applicants). With \$885,000 of existing ERAP funds remaining, Community Action Marin estimates being able to serve 147 waitlist applications based on average assistance for 3 months totaling \$6,000 per applicant. This would leave 256 households of low-income without assistance and at risk of eviction and displacement. **The total cost to provide 3 months of assistance to those additional 256 waitlist households of low-income is approximately \$1.5 million.**

It will take years for Marin to build our way out of the current housing crisis. We must take steps now to preserve existing affordable housing and also to protect tenants from displacement. **Your maximum investment in additional ERAP funding is a timely and important step to prevent the displacement of tenants of low-income** who are vital members of communities in every part of Marin County.

Thank you,

Chandra Alexandre, CEO  
Community Action Marin

Laura McMahon, Executive Director  
Legal Aid of Marin

Omar Carerra, CEO  
Canal Alliance

Cheryl Paddack, CEO  
North Marin Community Services

Anne Grey, CEO  
Vivalon

Alvaro Fuentes, CEO  
Aliados Health

Mark Shotwell, CEO and Benjamin Stein, Case Management Program Manager  
Ritter Center

Adriana Caldera Boroffice, CEO  
YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley

Meredith Parnell, Chief Program Officer  
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin

Leigha Andrews, Interim CEO  
Marin Community Clinics

Mary Kay Sweeney, Co-CEO  
Homeward Bound of Marin

Donna Garske, Executive Director  
Center for Domestic Peace

Lisa Bennett, Acting Executive Director  
Multicultural Center of Marin

Cc: Matthew Hymel, County Administrator  
Leelee Thomas, Deputy Director