

**Fw: COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Item 3.5 on the 2/9 Agenda)**

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 2/8/2021 10:18 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**

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San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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**From:** Josh Selo <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 10:15 AM

**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>

**Cc:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Sujatha Venkatraman <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Item 3.5 on the 2/9 Agenda)

[External Email]

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Vice Mayor Jones,

On behalf of West Valley Community Services, a member of the Emergency Assistance Network and a partner agency in the Homeless Prevention System, I write in support of the Staff Recommendation to implement a Hybrid Program (a.k.a. "Option C") with our local share of federal rental assistance funds.

As one of the agencies on the front lines of addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on our region's low income community, we have been watching eagerly as the City staff and the County of Santa Clara design a plan that can best leverage this new round of federal rental assistance funds. From where we stand, with the potential impact of vast homelessness as the result of COVID-19 on the horizon, it is clear that the most pressing need is to assist our lowest-income and most vulnerable community members, who continue to suffer the most severe impacts from the pandemic.

While the State's new rental assistance program may be well-suited to serve a large percentage of landlords and tenants in our community, we know that we must take intentional steps to meet the unique needs of extremely low income (ELI) and other vulnerable residents. Our community is best suited to devise a plan that meets our specific needs and challenges. That's why a flexible, community-driven approach is key to ensuring that vulnerable families and individuals are able to adequately address their needs.

By implementing a Hybrid program / Option C, we can supplement the new Statewide rental assistance program with a localized effort that focuses on assisting ELI and other vulnerable residents in our community. As a member of the 70-organization partnership led by Destination Home and Sacred Heart Community Service, we stand ready to administer a local rental assistance program to serve the residents of West San Jose.

Thank you for your leadership during this unprecedented time. We look forward to working with you to address the enormous need in our community, and we hope you will take the first step towards advancing this critical work by adopting the staff recommendation to implement a Hybrid program / Option C.

Sincerely,

Josh Selo  
(Pronouns: he, his, him)  
Executive Director



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February 7, 2021

Mayor & City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street,  
18th Floor San Jose, CA 95113

Re: COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Item 3.5 on the 2/9 Agenda)

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of San Jose Jazz, I write in support of the Staff Recommendation to implement a Hybrid Program (a.k.a. "Option C").

Local residents working in hospitality, food service, entertainment and the arts sectors have been decimated by the required pandemic lockdowns. Each year San Jose Jazz employs hundreds of musicians, part-time instructors, production crews, and event personnel for limited engagements. These individuals typically maintain other employment often within this same sector. Many of these individuals have seen all of their employment arrangements shutdown. Many of those working in our sector are ELI and VLI residents often with inconsistent income and irregular and complicated housing arrangements. These arrangements make it difficult to identify landlords willing to accept rental assistance payments on behalf of the tenant.

A flexible, hybrid approach is key to ensuring that vulnerable families and individuals are able to adequately address their needs.

Thank you,

Brendan Rawson





# Bill Wilson Center

*Building Connections for Youth and Families*

3490 The Alameda  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
(408) 243-0222 tel/  
(408) 246-5752 fax  
[www.billwilsoncenter.org](http://www.billwilsoncenter.org)

February 8, 2021

Mayor and City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

*Re: COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Item 3.5 on the 2/9 Agenda)*

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

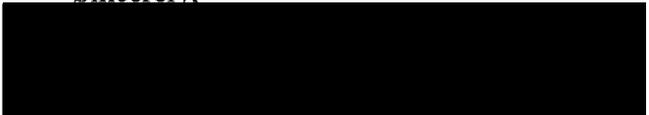
On behalf of Bill Wilson Center (BWC), I write in support of the Staff Recommendation to implement a Hybrid Program (a.k.a. "Option C") with our local share of federal rental assistance funds. From the work BWC has been doing to support families impacted by COVID-19, it is clear that the most pressing need is to assist our lowest-income and most vulnerable community members, who continue to suffer the most severe impacts from the pandemic.

While the State's new rental assistance program may be well-suited to serve a large percentage of landlords and tenants in our community, we know that we must take intentional steps to meet the unique needs of extremely low income (ELI) and other vulnerable residents in San Jose. For example, through our own experience being a financial partner with Sacred Heart Community Services to deploy COVID-19 assistance checks to those in need in the community, and serving as the non-profit partner for the City of Santa Clara's Emergency Rental Assistance Fund, we have experienced first-hand the need for flexibility in order to best meet the needs of the community.

By implementing a Hybrid program / Option C, the City can supplement the new State-wide rental assistance program with a localized effort that focuses on assisting ELI and other vulnerable residents in our community.

Bill Wilson Center stands ready to work with you to address the enormous need in our community, and we hope you will take the first step towards advancing this critical work by adopting the staff recommendation to implement a Hybrid program / Option C.

Sincerely,

  
Sparky Harlan  
Chief Executive Officer

## Fw: Rent Assistance

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Mon 2/8/2021 3:11 PM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

### Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

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San Jose, CA 95113

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**From:** Donna Furuta [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 2:58 PM

**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

**Subject:** Rent Assistance

[External Email]

Dear City Clerk,

Please encourage the mayor and council members to vote yes on the hybrid plan to assist ELI populations in San Jose with rental assistance from state funds.

Thank you,

Donna Furuta

PACT Board member

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DESTINATION: HOME

February 5, 2021

Mayor & City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

*Re: COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Item 3.5 on the 2/9 Agenda)*

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of Destination: Home, I write in support of the Staff Recommendation to implement a Hybrid Program (a.k.a. "Option C") with our local share of federal rental assistance funds.

Over the past several weeks, we have been working with City staff and our partners at the County of Santa Clara to see how we can best leverage this new round of federal rental assistance funds. During these discussions, and our conversations with the community, it is clear that the most pressing need is to assist our lowest-income and most vulnerable community members, who continue to suffer the most severe impacts from the pandemic.

While the State's new rental assistance program may be well-suited to serve a large percentage of landlords and tenants in our community, we know that **we must take intentional steps to meet the unique needs of extremely low income (ELI) and other vulnerable residents**. For example, through our own experience deploying \$31 million in rental and financial assistance to more than 14,000 households during the pandemic, we've seen that:

- About 25% of households served during Phase 2 of our COVID-19 financial assistance program were not able to access an online payment platform; and
- For roughly 40% of the households we've served in the most recent phase of our relief effort, we were unable to connect with a landlord to accept a rental assistance payment.

That's why a flexible, community-driven approach is key to ensuring that vulnerable families and individuals are able to adequately address their needs.

**By implementing a Hybrid program / Option C, we can supplement the new Statewide rental assistance program with a localized effort that focuses on assisting ELI and other vulnerable residents in our community.**

We've already had preliminary conversations with Sacred Heart Community Service and our community partners about how we could leverage our existing 70-organization partnership to administer a local rental assistance program. In addition, Destination: Home continues to aggressively pursue private and philanthropic funds to help meet families' other basic, non-rent needs.

Destination: Home

3180 Newberry Drive, Ste 200 San Jose, CA 95118 USA

ph: 408.961.9895 • fax: 408.559.9515

501(c)3 Tax ID# 82-3353174

[www.destinationhomesv.org](http://www.destinationhomesv.org)

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*Mayor, City of San Jose*

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*Silicon Valley Community  
Foundation*

Ted Wang  
*Cowboy Ventures*

Gary Wipfler  
*Apple*



**DESTINATION: HOME**

We stand ready to work with you to address the enormous need in our community, and we hope you will take the first step towards advancing this critical work by adopting the staff recommendation to implement a Hybrid program / Option C.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Loving  
CEO

Destination: Home

3180 Newberry Drive, Ste 200 San Jose, CA 95118 USA

ph: 408.961.9895 • fax: 408.559.9515

501(c)3 Tax ID# 82-3353174

[www.destinationhomesv.org](http://www.destinationhomesv.org)

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Leslye Corsiglia  
*Executive Director*

**TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL**

February 8, 2021

Honorable Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo, Vice-Chair Jones, and Councilmembers Arenas, Carrasco, Cohen, Davis, Esparza, Foley, Jimenez, Mahan, and Peralez,

**RE: Item 3.3-- City's COVID Response: Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

The health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have been far reaching, with thousands of San Jose families falling behind on rent payments and borrowing or maxing out credit cards to pay for utilities and other expenses. Local efforts have helped many families stay housed over the last year, but much more assistance is needed to ensure that these residents can avoid displacement.

While the rent moratorium has been a critical emergency response, it alone is not the answer. It is imperative that we help residents who have fallen behind on rent payments in order to stave off displacement and mitigate human hardship. Thankfully the latest round of federal stimulus measures has included this critical emergency assistance for renters and landlords. We expect the need to exceed these new resources, however, and it is our hope that more funding is forthcoming.

**We write today to support the staff recommendation to administer new federal tenant relief funding through a hybrid program (Option C)**, whereby the City would administer \$30 million in funding directly, with the remaining \$32 million being administered through a State partnership with the Local Initiative Support Corporation.

As highlighted in the staff memo, the State funding comes with additional restrictions. The staff recommendation to administer a portion of the funds locally will enable needed flexibility to target the most vulnerable city residents who are most at risk of displacement, including those tenants who are not in traditional landlord relationships, who may lack on-line access for enrolment, or for whom language barriers and concerns over legal status may pose hurdles in gaining access to the State system.

We further support efforts to direct the local funds through the successful effort spearheaded by Destination: Home and Sacred Heart Community Services, in coordination with a network of more than 70 local partners, that has provided rental and other financial assistance to more than 14,000 local families to date. The City's ongoing support for this network has been essential to building systems to reach into often poorly-served communities through trusted local institutions. We believe this approach will be critical as we move through stages of this crisis and a just recovery. Destination: Home has successfully leveraged millions of dollars from private and philanthropic sources to

February 8, 2021

Re: **Item 3.3-- City's COVID Response: Emergency Rental Assistance Program**

Page 2 of 2

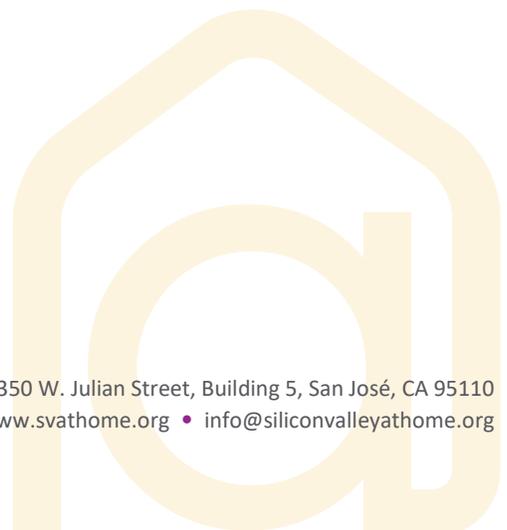
supplement the public funding and will continue to explore new opportunities for supplemental funding in order to meet the non-rent needs of area families.

SV@Home is prepared to work with our local partners to educate the community about the available funding, how to apply for assistance, and how to be prepared for the challenges ahead. Thank you for all your work, and that of the City staff, to make sure that the most vulnerable residents in the city are protected.

Sincerely,



Leslye Corsiglia  
Executive Director





LATINOS UNITED FOR A NEW AMERICA  
1692 STORY RD STE 225  
SAN JOSE, CA 95122-2121

February 8th, 2021

Mayor & City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Item 3.5 on the 2/9 Agenda)

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of Latinos United for a New America (LUNA), I write in support of the Staff Recommendation to implement a Hybrid Program (a.k.a. "Option C") with our local share of federal rental assistance funds. Over the past several weeks, we have been working with City staff and our partners at the County of Santa Clara to see how we can best leverage this new round of federal rental assistance funds. During these discussions, and our conversations with the community, it is clear that the most pressing need is to assist our lowest income and most vulnerable community members, who continue to suffer the most severe impacts from the pandemic.

While the State's new rental assistance program may be well-suited to serve a large percentage of landlords and tenants in our community, we know that we must take intentional steps to meet the unique needs of extremely low income (ELI) and other vulnerable residents. For example, through our own experience deploying \$170 thousand dollars in financial assistance to more than 100 households during the pandemic, we've seen that:

- About 25% of households served during Phase 2 of our COVID-19 financial assistance program were not able to access an online payment platform; and
- Community members, especially the undocumented community, and essential workers have an extremely difficult time finding financial opportunities in our city.

That's why a flexible, community-driven approach is key to ensuring that vulnerable families and individuals are able to adequately address their needs. By implementing a Hybrid program / Option C, we can supplement the new Statewide rental assistance program with a localized effort that focuses on assisting ELI and other vulnerable residents in our community.



LATINOS UNITED FOR A NEW AMERICA  
1692 STORY RD STE 225  
SAN JOSE, CA 95122-2121

By implementing a Hybrid program / Option C, we can supplement the new Statewide rental assistance program with a localized effort that focuses on assisting ELI and other vulnerable residents in our community. We've already had preliminary conversations with Sacred Heart Community Service and our community partners about how we could leverage our existing 70- organization partnership to administer a local rental assistance program. In addition, LUNA continues to aggressively pursue private and philanthropic funds to help meet families' other basic, non-rent needs. We stand ready to work with you to address the enormous need in our community, and we hope you will take the first step towards advancing this critical work by adopting the staff recommendation to implement a Hybrid program / Option C

Sincerely,



Mayra Pelagio  
Executive Director, LUNA





February 8, 2021

Mayor & City Council  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

**Re: COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Item 3.5 on the 2/9 Agenda)**

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Si Se Puede Collective, we write in support of the Staff Recommendation to implement a Hybrid Program (a.k.a. "Option C") with our local share of federal rental assistance funds.

Over the past several weeks, the sister organizations of the Si Se Puede Collective have made diligent grassroots efforts at distributing \$2 million in rental assistance for the most vulnerable members of the Mayfair District and Greater East Side community. During these efforts, we have seen how pre-existing challenges in these neighborhoods have been dramatically exacerbated by the pandemic. Most notably, households which were already doubling or tripling up on families in a single home to make ends meet are growing more in size and prevalence. These close quarters undoubtedly also contribute to the disproportionate spread of the virus and number of cases that can be found in the East Side zip codes.

Furthermore, from the groundwork and conversations with community members, we have learned that requirements attached to previous relief efforts have made them inaccessible to many in our community. These relief programs have made assumptions about the documentation that is readily available to individuals and families and unintentionally excluded some of the most vulnerable in our community. In Mayfair and the East Side, many residents are unbanked, enter informal tenancy agreements, are undocumented, or for a score of other reasons, do not have quick access to these forms of documentation.

**By implementing a Hybrid program / Option C, we can supplement the new Statewide rental assistance program with a localized effort that focuses on assisting ELI (Extremely Low Income) and other vulnerable residents in our community.**

Already, other cities, such as Los Angeles and Philadelphia, have been pushing for flexible, community driven cash assistance programs to more adequately aid those most in need. With a similar approach San Jose can also ensure that relief is better able to reach the communities that are facing the brunt of the pandemic's consequences.

As a Collective, each organization remains committed to responding to the needs of the community and are actively engaged in providing other forms of relief to families, including but not limited to, drive through essential goods distributions, supporting mutual support networks, educational outreach, and door-to-door testing.

We will readily work with you to continue providing relief to our community and believe adopting the staff recommendation to implement a Hybrid program ("Option C") will provide the most immediate response.



Sincerely,

**Camille Llanes-Fontanilla, SOMOS Mayfair**  
Executive Director

**Cayce Hill, Veggelution**  
Executive Director

**Jessica Paz-Cedillos, School of Arts & Culture**  
Executive Director

**Maritza Maldonado, Amigos de Guadalupe**  
Executive Director

**Veronica Goei, Grail Family Services**  
Executive Director

Blair Beekman. sj council. February 9, 2021. Item 3.5.

b. beekman <[REDACTED]>

Tue 2/9/2021 10:53 AM

To: Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

[External Email]

Dear community of San Jose, and city govt,

To address, eviction moratoriums, rent freezes, rental forgiveness & assistance,

I think, we are all better understanding, the beginnings of Covid-19. And this possibly man-made pandemic, is not the fault, of everyday people.

And from this, everyday people, should not be held responsible, for its debt burdens.

As a part of our human decency, at this time, it has been decided, about 80%, of rent debt issues, can be forgiven, at this time, with the help, of good, Ca. state funding practices.

Yet, as these good intentions, try to equally help, both owners & tenants - we cannot fully comit, to cover the remaining 20%, of rent forgiveness issues, for both tenants & owners, at this time.

To again, offer a perspective.

I feel, most apt. owner's, and small business land owners, have a certain business knowledge, of current tax incentives & state funding plans, that can be specifically designed, to take care of the needs, of most owners, at this time.

And meant to help, so owners, do not have to raise their rents, on vulnerable tenants, for the next couple of years.

From this place, is the final question, of full rent forgiveness, for tenants. As they are more vulnerable. And often, do not have, the same advantages, or business accumen, as owners can.

It seems, owners need to learn, to direct their efforts, to work towards bettering, their own state funding & tax incentives needs.

And not spend, so much time & energy, in what can be, a selfish, individualistic, bitter pursuit, of continual litigation with local govt. & tenants.

A reminder, local government, is only trying to look after, and take care of, all parts of society, at this time of pandemic.

In this waiting time, that Covid-19, has put us all in, we should begin to learn, how to prepare, as an entire community, for the next decade of possible natural disasters, in the SF Bay Area.

sincerely,  
blair beekman

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# SAN JOSE CONSERVATION CORPS + CHARTER SCHOOL

February 8, 2021

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California Conservation Corps

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Director, PWC

**Dorsey Moore**  
Executive Director/CEO

Mayor & City Council  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 18th Floor  
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Item 3.5 on the 2/9 Agenda)

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the San Jose Conservation Corps (SJCC), I write in support of the Staff Recommendation to implement a Hybrid Program (a.k.a. "Option C") with our local share of federal rental assistance funds.

The SJCC has witnessed first-hand the affordable housing crisis pre and post-pandemic. Many of our corpsmembers and students have been displaced or are struggling to keep their housing. Additionally, our teams that provide trail safety and assist with Beautify SJ have seen the dramatic increase in the number of unhoused individuals and families during the pandemic.

It is imperative that we act immediately to keep as many people housed as possible for humanitarian, environmental and economic reasons. Housing should be a human right. The impact of unhoused people on our environment is horrendous and the cost to provide services (food, temporary shelter, support services and waste removal) is incredibly expensive and not sustainable.

Rental assistance programs meet the most pressing need to assist our lowest-income and most vulnerable community members, who continue to suffer the most severe impacts from the pandemic. While the State's new rental assistance program may be well-suited to serve a large percentage of landlords and tenants in our community, we know that we must take intentional steps to meet the unique needs of extremely low income (ELI) and other vulnerable residents.

We support the Hybrid program (Option C) because it is a flexible, community-driven approach that ensures vulnerable families and individuals are able to adequately address their needs. By implementing a Hybrid program (Option C), we can supplement the new Statewide rental assistance program with a localized effort that focuses on assisting ELI and other vulnerable residents in our community.

We appreciate and value the work of the City of San Jose, Destination Home, Sacred Heart Community Service and other community partners who have been and will continue to fundraise and provide rental assistance funding for our communities most vulnerable members.

We encourage you to approve the staff recommendation to implement the Hybrid program (Option C).

Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

**Dorsey Moore**

Executive Director/CEO, San Jose Conservation Corps + Charter School  
408-439-6653; [dmoore@sjcccs.org](mailto:dmoore@sjcccs.org)



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San José City Council  
San José City Hall  
200 E. Santa Clara St.  
San José, CA 95113  
Sent via electronic mail

February 9, 2021

**Re: City's COVID-19 Response: Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Item 3.5**

Dear Mayor Liccardo and Councilmembers:

I write on behalf of Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN), an alliance of some 150 nonprofit organizations working to support thriving and equitable communities in Santa Clara County. Our members have prioritized housing security and ending homelessness as key policy priorities in 2021.

In that context, I write to support the hybrid approach for the City's Emergency Rental Relief Program. The 70-nonprofit-strong homeless prevention program, led by Destination: Home and Sacred Heart Community Service, is a proven, successful, cross-sector, highly leveraged, community-based approach that has prevented thousands of families and individuals in our community from homelessness and financial devastation. The HPS collective and its trusted grassroots partners should be resourced and allowed to focus its assistance on the most disadvantaged in our community. This approach is supported by the data in Councilmember Esparza as well as staff's analysis.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at (408) 605-6586 with any questions.

Regards,



Kyra Kazantzis, CEO