TO: Wichita Housing Authority Board

SUBJECT: Emergency Housing Vouchers

INITIATED BY: Housing and Community Services Department

AGENDA: Wichita Housing Authority Board (Non-Consent)

**Recommendation:** Approve the Wichita Housing Authority’s acceptance of the Department of Housing & Urban of 142 Emergency Housing Vouchers, made available under Notice PIH 2021-15 (HA) as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, becoming effective July 1, 2021 and authorize the necessary signatures.

**Background:** Emergency Housing Vouchers are to assist individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness; at risk of experiencing homelessness; fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or were recently homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family’s homelessness or having high risk of housing instability. The Housing Authority are required to work with the Continuum of Care and other community Development’s (HUD) offer partners for direct referrals and services.

**Analysis:** The Housing Authority has a current allocation of 3,047 Housing Choice Vouchers and is very close to having all of those vouchers utilized. The Emergency Housing Vouchers will provide an opportunity to continue uninterrupted placements of new tenants under the Homeless Preference Program and other at risk individuals as identified in the guidance provided by HUD.

A one-time service fee will be also be received for each of the Emergency Housing Vouchers. With this additional funding the Housing Authority will be able to provide services; such as, housing search assistance for tenants, or help with things like application fees and deposits. Revenue from the fee can be used for property owner outreach and recruitment, and owner incentive and/or retention payments. By providing such assistance and incentives, the Housing Authority will be able to directly help the tenants and housing providers in creating a more stable, sustainable relationship and a successful housing experience.

**Financial Considerations:** There is no impact to the General Fund. The Wichita Housing Authority will receive additional housing assistance funding and administrative fees for the emergency vouchers.

**Legal Considerations:** This funding is available under HUD’s application and award process.

**Recommendation/Action:** It is recommended that the Wichita Housing Authority Board approve the Wichita Housing Authority’s acceptance of the Department of Housing & Urban Development’s offer of 142 Emergency Housing Vouchers, made available under Notice PIH 2021-15 (HA) as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, effective July 1, 2021 and authorize the necessary signatures.

**Attachments:** KS004 – Emergency Housing Voucher Award Letter & U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Notice PIH 2021-15 (HA)