

Bay Area Housing Finance Authority

Advisory Committee

March 23, 2023

Agenda Item 8.a

Bay Area Eviction and Legal Services Study

Subject:

Description of Forthcoming Study Commissioned by Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) to Collect Eviction and Legal Services Data from the Bay Area's Nine Counties

Background:

Limited data is available on the rates and causes of Bay Area evictions, the demographics and geographies that are most affected, and the landscape of available legal and financial services to assist affected households. This lack of data makes it difficult to design interventions needed to assist tenants to stay stably housed. With the expiration of pandemic-era tenant protections and the accompanying rise in eviction rates throughout the Bay Area, gaining a better understanding of eviction causes, consequences, and effective interventions can advance equitable policies that benefit tenants, landlords and communities.

Through the extensive stakeholder engagement BAHFA conducted in fall 2022 as part of its anti-displacement pilot launch, BAHFA has received multiple requests from around the region to conduct a study of evictions and opportunities for enhancing housing legal services. BAHFA is well positioned to conduct further research and analyze policy and program interventions, with our regional lens and mission to support tenant protections as part of the 3Ps.

Request for Proposals to Study Bay Area Evictions and Legal Services:

In spring 2023, BAHFA will seek a consultant through an open RFP process to conduct a regional Eviction and Housing Legal Services Study. The study will include:

1. A quantitative analysis of evictions over the past 5 years throughout the region, including the rates, causes, outcomes, and characteristics of evictions in each county, and estimates of the demographics of people most affected by evictions. This analysis will draw upon public court eviction records, legal service provider data, and, as available, local data sources.
2. A survey and/or series of interviews with legal services providers to determine trends and needs in evictions and the provision of legal services, including variations of available services across geographies, opportunities and challenges around expansion of services, and the efficacy of legal services in aiding tenants in eviction proceedings.

The study will be focused on the entire region, but there may be opportunities for deeper research and policy solutions that are focused on specific geographies depending on data availability (e.g., rent registry data, right to counsel program data, or other local data sources). The results of the research will be compiled for internal staff and BAHFA will be responsible for finalizing content into a public-facing report. BAHFA is allocating up to \$200,000 of its Anti-Displacement Pilot budget for this purpose.

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Issues:

None

Recommended Action:

Information

Attachment:

None

Reviewed:



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