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Comment:

I am writing on behalf of the Community Housing Network in Oakland County to share how these proposed changes will support our efforts in ensuring housing stability and reducing loss of income for landlords in Oakland County. The proposed rule will allow non-profit organizations and agencies the time needed to deploy services and assistance to avoid eviction and connect agencies directly with tenants and landlords seeking services.

Community Housing Network's CERA (COVID Emergency Rental Assistance) Program was able to provide over \$60 million in rental and utility assistance in Oakland County with the support of legal aid organizations and district courts. Specifically, the ability to attend Zoom pretrials to directly interact with tenants and landlords was crucial in connecting tenants to eviction prevention resources quickly and efficiently. Additionally, attending pretrials allows agencies to connect with more households at risk of eviction before trial, thus reducing the possibility of a default judgement and increasing awareness of rental assistance and supportive assistance programs.

With the end of the CERA Program and updated eviction prevention strategies forming in Oakland County, it is crucial that agencies are still afforded the necessary time and attention required for service delivery and mutually beneficial eviction diversion strategies, which includes rental assistance from participation in eviction prevention programs. We believe with a strategic vision and response we can work together to build long-term housing stability and reduce loss of income for landlords.