

# EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN PENNSYLVANIA

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## ELIGIBILITY & BENEFITS FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY COVID-19



UTILITY HELP



APPLY FOR ERAP



FIND LEGAL AID



## TO QUALIFY YOU MUST:

- Be required to pay rent. Homeowners cannot apply for mortgage or energy assistance through ERAP.
- Have a household income at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). [Click here to view AMI in your area.](#)
- Be at risk of losing your home or becoming homeless. You can show this if–
  - You have received a past due rent notice or an eviction notice.
  - You have past due utility bills.
  - Your living conditions are unsafe or unhealthy.
  - There are other conditions threatening your home.
- Someone in the household has qualified for unemployment or experienced a reduction in household income.
- You have incurred significant costs or have experienced other financial hardship directly or indirectly due to COVID-19.

## WHAT BENEFITS CAN I RECEIVE?

You are eligible for 12 to 15 months of support for:

- Payment of past and future rent, as well as moving expenses after an eviction. This includes rent for hotels or motels as well as mobile homes and lots.
- Payment of past and future utility bills
- Payment of other expenses such as internet and phone bills for work, school, or telehealth.

VISIT [WWW.COMPASS.STATE.PA.US](http://WWW.COMPASS.STATE.PA.US)  
AND SELECT EMERGENCY RENTAL  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO APPLY.

# COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT ELIGIBILITY AND ASSISTANCE

**Q: Is the application process the same in every county in Pennsylvania?**

A: Some counties may require applicants to apply with a local organization. Visit [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us) to find your county's application.

**Q: Do I need to be a U.S. citizen or have a social security number to apply? Do I need to have a photo ID?**

A: You do not need to be a citizen, and there are many forms of identification accepted. Find out more by viewing a [flyer](#) created by RHLS and the Community Justice Project.

**Q: What if my landlord or utility service provider refuses to cooperate?**

A: Assistance for rent or utilities can be paid directly to the tenant and are then required to be forwarded to the landlord or utility company.

**Q: Do I have to have lived in my rental home for any minimum length of time to qualify?**

A: No. There is no requirement for how long you have lived in your apartment, rental home, mobile home, or other place of living.

**Q: Do I need to have an eviction notice to apply for this assistance?**

A: No. You do not need an eviction notice to apply for ERAP rental or utility assistance.

**Q: What proof do I need to provide that I meet the eligibility requirements?**

A: The application may ask you for a lease, utility bills, or other documents. You may be able to "self-certify" if you do not have the requested documents.

**Q: Can I still apply for assistance if I live in federally subsidized housing like Section 8? What about if I receive LIHEAP?**

A: Yes. A tenant living in federally subsidized housing or receiving LIHEAP can still apply as long as they meet the other eligibility requirements.

**Q: Is there a limit to how much money I can receive in assistance?**

A: No. There is no cap on the amount of assistance a tenant can receive. Availability of assistance may vary by county, however.

**Q: Can I apply if I live in a hotel or motel? What about for a mobile home or mobile home lot?**

A: Yes. These are eligible costs under ERAP.

**Q: What should I do if I have more questions or have difficulty with the application?**

A: Contact your local legal aid office as soon as possible for more help.

**Q: Can homeowners receive assistance through ERAP?**

A: No. There are other resources available for homeowners.



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