**You May Be Eligible for Federal Rent Assistance!**

**The federal government is distributing billions of dollars in COVID-19 rental assistance through state and local programs around the country. If you’re having trouble paying your rent, utilities or other housing costs, we may be able to help you apply for benefits, charitable grants or other aid.**

**How Does the Program Work?**

Renters can apply for aid or apartment firms can apply on behalf of their residents. CUSTOMIZE: Our firm IS participating in the program so if you are approved for assistance, the rental assistance will paid directly to us.

OR

Our firm is NOT participating directly in the program, but you can still apply for assistance and receive the assistance directly so you can use it to pay your rent or past rent due.

**How Do I Apply?**

Programs that provide help with rent work in different ways, depending on how each state, local, or tribal government establishes its program. You may be able to apply for rental assistance yourself, or you may need to work with your landlord to submit the application.

**CUSTOMIZE:** In OUR STATE/TOWN, you can apply INSERT DETAILS **Info based on state/local program.**

**NOTE: We encourage firms to provide a contact person within your organization for residents with questions.**

You can also find out where to apply for rental assistance in your area at consumerfinance.gov/renthelp. If you can’t find a program in your area, call 2-1-1 or your local housing authority for assistance.

**Who Is Eligible?**

States and localities have established varying criteria for program eligibility. However, rent assistance funds are broadly available for those:

* Who have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
* Demonstrating a risk of losing their housing; and
* Meet certain income criteria specified by the program.

We encourage anyone experiencing a financial hardship to get more information about rent assistance - you may qualify.

**What Does the Aid Cover?**

Federal relief generally covers up to 12 months of rent, as back rent or future rent, paid up to three months at a time, depending on local rules and availability. Funds can also be used for:

* Utilities and home energy costs (e.g., electricity, gas, fuel oil, water and sewer, and trash removal.)
* Reasonable late fees (if not included in your rental or utility debt)
* Internet service to your home
* Moving expenses and other rental-related fees (such as security deposits, application fees, or screening fees) for families who have to move
* **Rent Assistance** (www.rentassistance.us/). Directory of rental assistance agencies and organizations that can help renters pay rent.
* **Community Action Agency** (https://communityactionpartnership.com/find-a-cap/). Helps residents find out what services they might be able to access locally, such as emergency payment assistance for rent or utilities.
* **Help with Bills** (www.usa.gov/help-with-bills). Information on government programs to help pay for utilities and other expenses.
* **Grantspace by Candid** (https://bit.ly/3wXOyIy). Database of national and state grant funds available to help with a wide variety of situations.

**Additional Financial Resources for Renters**

* **United Way’s 211.org.** Dial 211 from any phone or visit 211.org to search by zip code for available assistance.

* **Salvation Army** (https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/covid19/). Searchable database of support services by zip code, city or state. Counselors are available (in English and Spanish) at 844-458-4673.
* **Catholic Charities** (https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/find-help/). Reliable source of financial support for housing and more.
* **Unemployment Insurance** (www.usa.gov/unemployment).
* **Resident Relief Foundation** (https://residentrelieffoundation.org/our-programs/).

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**We remain committed to our residents during these trying times and understand how important it is to have stable housing during the pandemic.**