



Pennsylvania COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program for Renters and Property Owners

7.1.2020

Starting **July 6th**, The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and county organizations will begin accepting applications for the CARES Rent Relief Program. \$150 million dollars has been dedicated to rental assistance for tenants throughout the Commonwealth impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, and both landlords and tenants must fill out applications in order to utilize the rental assistance. Below are the guidelines regarding this program:

Program Guidelines:

- To qualify, renters must have lost income due to the COVID-19 crisis.
 - Renters must document at least a 30% reduction in income since March 1, 2020, related to COVID-19 or
 - Renters must have become unemployed after March 1, 2020 as a result of COVID-19
- Renter's income may not exceed the Area Median Income for their county of residence (and adjusted for the number people in your household).
 - [Find the Area Median Income by county here](#)
- Payments will be made directly to the landlord.
- CARES RRP funds may only be used to cover rent incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020.
- Property owners are eligible to apply on behalf of lessees.
- The maximum amount of monthly assistance is \$750. The maximum CARES RRP funding available is \$4,500 throughout a period of six months.

Property Owner Responsibilities:

- Property owners seeking CARES RRP assistance on behalf of tenant households and lessees applying for CARES RRP funding must complete and submit the Landlord Application, Landlord/Property Certification Form, and Lessee Household Certification.
- Property owners must commit that they will not begin any eviction proceedings for any other rent within **60 days** from the date rent was due within the last month for which assistance was provided.
- Properties must meet the Housing Quality Standards on the Landlord/Property Certification

Here are the steps to apply:

- Complete the three applications that require both renter and property owner involvement.
- Use this link to find your county's office administering this program. Mail or email your application and supporting documents to your county office. Your county will follow-up with additional guidance and instruction.

[Pennsylvania Rental Assistance Program Information] <https://www.phfa.org/pacares/rent.aspx>

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