

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

SUMMARY

- **WHO the program is for:**

The Wayne County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is available to landlords and their renters within Wayne County who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, who are experiencing housing instability, and whose household income is at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). The applicant must be applying for a residence in Wayne County (excluding Detroit).

**Residents of Detroit will be serviced by the Detroit program.*

- **WHAT types of assistance are available:**

Assistance is available for rent as well as for utilities. Utility assistance may include: electricity, home heating, water, and sewer. Internet stipends and relocation assistance are also available.

- **WHERE a renter or landlord can apply:**

Renters and landlords can apply for assistance through our easy-to-use online application. If the application is approved, a notification will be made via email.

- **WHEN are applications being accepted:**

Renters may apply via the tenant application starting September 27th, 2021. Landlord applications will also be made available at that time.

- **WHY the program was created:**

Even as the American economy continues its recovery from the devastating impact of the pandemic, millions of Americans still face deep rental debt and fear the loss of basic housing security. COVID-19 exacerbated an affordable housing crisis that predated the pandemic and thus has deepened the economic disparities that threaten the strength of our nation. To alleviate this crisis, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program makes funding available to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utility bills.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

Applicants must meet ALL of the criteria below to be eligible for the Wayne County Emergency Rental Assistance Program:

- The applicant must be a current or prospective renter. Landlords may apply to receive money on behalf of tenants, but the tenant must also submit an application;
- One or more individuals within the household has qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship during or due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- The household has a household income at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI), as determined by the Secretary of HUD. See the table below for income thresholds.

	Persons in Household							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Maximum Annual Income (80% AMI)	\$44,800	\$51,200	\$57,600	\$64,000	\$69,150	\$74,250	\$79,400	\$84,500

**Please note, prioritized processing will be in place for households with income at or below 50% AMI as well as households with one or more members that have been unemployed for at least the 90 days preceding the date of application submission.*

If you do not meet the criteria above, please consider seeking assistance through the following services:

- For Detroit Residents - <https://bit.ly/3hHUT66>
- For Outside of Detroit and Wayne County - <https://bit.ly/3zmlA6x>

WHAT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE ARE AVAILABLE

Assistance Available	Amount of Assistance
Rent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximum 15 months, of which 3 months can be for future rent
Utilities and Home Energy Costs Electricity, Heating, Water/Sewer Trash (if billed with another utility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1-2 people - \$1500 one time max• 3-4 people - \$2000 one time max• 5+ people - \$2500 one time max• Tenants experiencing a shut off are eligible for an additional \$500 if needed to fully pay utility arrears
Internet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$300 stipend
Relocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New apartment application fee reimbursement• Security deposit reimbursement (cannot exceed one month of rent)

**Emergency Rental Assistance funds cannot cover past due rent that occurred prior to March 13, 2020.*

HOW TO APPLY

Renters and landlords can apply for assistance through our easy-to-use online application.

Focus Hope provides internet access to those in need (Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm) at the following locations:

- 759 Inkster Road Inkster, MI 48141
- 9151 Chalmers Detroit, MI 48213
- 1400 Oakman Blvd Detroit, MI 48238

Spanish and Arabic translations of the application are also available. Please note additional processing time may occur for applications requiring translation.