



DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



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New program aids renters, landlords

Allegheny County, in partnership with community providers, is offering help to people who are experiencing job loss or loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and are behind on their rent.

Administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), the CARES Rent Relief Program is managed locally by the County. The state funding provides renters with up to \$750 a month per household for a maximum of six months of assistance or \$4,500. The county is providing additional funding to supplement the program, providing an additional \$750 a month in rent for a maximum of six months, and \$200 a month for a maximum of six months for renters' electric, gas, internet, late fees, and court costs. Either a tenant or their landlord can initiate the process, but both have to agree to participate and complete applications.

ACTION Housing is serving as the intake and eligibility provider for the program, and the Urban League, Community Human Services, and Auberle are serving as rental assistance providers.

"This is a strong group of agencies that know well the world of rental assistance. They are well positioned to help households navigate this program," said Abigail Horn, deputy directory in the Office of Community Services (OCS). "We are extremely excited about the opportunity this program offers to support a large number of struggling households across the county to avoid housing instability and eviction during this unprecedented period of insecurity."

To be eligible for the CARES Rent Relief Program, renters behind in their rent must have a household income at or below the area median income and document at least a 30% income reduction or job loss since March 1 due to COVID-19. Landlords agreeing to participate in the program must forego any additional rent or fees owed, must not pursue eviction action 60 days after the last payment for assistance is provided, and must attest that the property meets housing quality standards and is fully paid on real estate taxes.

Anyone interested in learning more or applying for the program should visit <https://COVIDRentRelief.AlleghenyCounty.us>. Questions can also be directed to

AHICaresRRP@actionhousing.org or 412.248.0021. Applications will be accepted through September 30 on a first-come, first-served basis.