

# Treasury Rent Assistance

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An overview of prevention rent assistance in Clark County

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# Program Overview



# Three Rounds of Funding

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- ERAP
  - Provided through WA Dept of Commerce
  - Available August 2020 – June 2021
  - \$9,817,085.84 in assistance provided
- ERA 1.0 and ERA 2.0
  - Provided through Commerce and Dept of the Treasury
  - Available starting March 2021
  - Expected spend out June 2022
  - \$25,979,456 (1.0) and \$25,318,202 (2.0) available in direct assistance



# Other Successes

- Since August 2020 for all funding so far
  - 5,225 unduplicated households served
  - 46,061 months of utility and rent assistance provided
  - \$43,715,499.87 of total assistance
- Working with more culturally specific organizations

Performance Measure	Goal	Actual
Serve households headed by a person of color	At least 31%	46.5%
Serve households headed by a person who identifies as Black or African American	At least 3%	14.7%
Serve households headed by a person who identifies as American Indian or Alaska Native	At least 1%	1.8%
Serve households headed by a person who identifies as Latinx or Hispanic	At least 15%	16.2%
Serve youth headed households no older than 24 years of age	At least 10%	10.2%



# Eligibility

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- ✔ Income eligibility 60% AMI as of November 1
  - ✔ Financial hardship due to COVID-19
  - ✔ Housing instability
  - ✔ Have not received previous assistance
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- Documentation needed for most eligibility requirements
  - Citizenship documentation is not asked, nor documentation required



# Assistance Available

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- Rent

- Up to 12 months of assistance
- Can pay back to March 13, 2020
- Up to three months of future rent assistance
  - Cannot exceed 12 month's assistance total



- Utility Assistance

- Utilities included on the lease agreement are eligible
  - Electricity, gas, water, sewer, trash removal and energy costs, such as fuel oil
  - Phone and cable are not eligible
- Electricity assistance is available through Clark Public Utilities



# Outreach Efforts

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- County publishes news releases prior to the waitlist opening
  - Sign up for Clark County news releases at [flashalert.net](http://flashalert.net)
- Council for the Homeless social media and website
  - <https://www.councilforthehomeless.org/rent-assistance/>
- By and For organization partnerships
  - By and For organizations are operated by and for the community they serve. Their primary mission and history is serving a specific community and they are culturally based, directed, and substantially controlled by individuals from the population they serve. These communities may include ethnic and racial minorities; immigrants and refugees; individuals who identify as LGBTQ+, individuals with disabilities or who are deaf; and Native Americans.
  - Outreach directly to specific populations in ways that best meet the needs of those communities
  - Direct referral to housing provider partnerships



# Program Access

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- Landlords can apply on behalf of tenants
  - Online access for landlords: <https://airtable.com/shrrKOIM977VYH0IH>
- Tenants can apply directly
  - Online access for tenants: <https://airtable.com/shrjao15aZyYlqPFb>
  - Online access for Spanish speaking tenants: <https://airtable.com/shrRFAEYvqZ7hKled>
- Households with no internet access can call 360-695-9677
- Applicants without phone/internet may stop by the Share Fromhold Center on Andresen
- Limited access through By/For Partners





# Challenges & Successes



# Challenges & Successes

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- Challenge: Unprecedented amount of funding
  - Success: unprecedented amount of funding going into the community
- Challenge: No guidelines from the Dept of the Treasury
  - Success: created a program from scratch in cooperation with Commerce
- Challenge: Slow and confusing guidance from Treasury
  - Success: great partnership with Commerce
- Challenge: Limited funding to operate the program
  - Success: supplemented program with local funds



# Challenges & Successes

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- Challenge: County staffing
  - Success: Amazing county staff that took on the program in addition to existing full-time responsibilities
  - Success: Hired additional temporary staff to help operate the program
- Challenge: Provider staffing
  - Success: Using temporary staffing agencies
- Challenge: Number of housing providers
  - Success: Engaged all existing housing providers
  - Success: Added non-traditional housing providers



# Challenges & Successes

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- Challenge: Housing provider financial capacity due to cost reimbursement payment model
  - Success: More frequent and prioritized invoicing process
  - Success: Housing provider partnership with Community Foundation of SW WA to help with cash flow
- Challenge: Changing guidance from Treasury
  - Success: Expanded some eligibility options
- Challenge: Documentation requirements
  - Success: Ongoing research for more efficient ways to document eligibility
- Challenge: Long wait times to receive assistance
  - Success: Only opening enough waitlist spots that we know can be assisted if they qualify
  - Success: Ongoing research for more efficient ways to document eligibility



# Challenges & Successes

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- Challenge: Amount of reporting required
  - Success: Use of HMIS to collect data
- Challenge: Increased reporting requirements from Treasury that requires retro-actively collecting data
  - Success: TBD
- Challenge: Technical Assistance needed for new housing providers
  - Success: Training provided by county staff, recorded and available at any time to providers
  - Success: Bi-weekly check-in meeting with providers
- Challenge: Eviction moratorium ended
  - Success: TBD



# Challenges & Successes

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- Challenge: Language barriers for households most likely to lose housing
  - Success: Working with several culturally specific organizations to do outreach and translation of documents
  - Success: Increased hiring of culturally diverse staff by housing providers
- Challenge: Landlords not responsive to housing providers
  - Success: You can help!
- Challenge: Landlord ledgers that are not clear about charges due
  - Success: You can help!
- Challenge: Political pressures to allocate funds
  - Success: Constantly looking at how we can do better



# How you can help



# Helpful Hints for Tenants

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- Waitlist application spots go quickly, be ready to apply as soon as the waitlist opens
- Only apply 1 time
  - Multiple referrals have to be de-duplicated
  - Email confirming household is on the waitlist
- Indicate your preferred language in the online portal
- Income documentation is needed
  - 2020 tax returns, OR
  - Last 60 days of income from the time the housing agency contacts you
- Respond to the housing agency's calls





# Resources



# Resources

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- For all types of resources, contact 211info: 2-1-1; 211info.org
- Housing
  - All shelter and publicly funded housing programs are accessed through the Housing Solutions Center: 360-695-9677
  - Other agencies that may be able to provide assistance include:
    - St. Vincent de Paul: 360-694-5388
    - The Salvation Army: 360-448-2890
    - If you have school-age children, please reach out to the Family & Community Resource Centers available in most schools. Contact them by calling your child's school.
  - Clark Public Utilities: 360-992-3000
- Clark County Veterans Assistance Center provides several services for Veterans in our community: 360-693-7030



## Resources (continued)

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- Civil Legal Aid
  - Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program: 360-334-4007 or [info@ccvlp.org](mailto:info@ccvlp.org)
  - Community Mediation Services: 360-334-5862
  - NW Justice Project's CLEAR program: [nwjustice.org/get-legal-help](http://nwjustice.org/get-legal-help) or 888-201-1014 between 9:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
  - Legal Counsel for Youth and Children for youth under age 24: 206-494-0323, ext. 715.



# Questions?

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# Thank you!

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