

Struggling to pay your rent or utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic?



The NEW Fairfax County Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program may be able to help

Fairfax County is administering relief for renters experiencing a negative financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the NEW Fairfax County Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program.

Through this program, you can apply (or your landlord may apply on your behalf) to receive funds to pay delinquent rent or utility arrear payments back to March 13, 2020, and up to three months of payments into the future to maintain housing stability. The total payments may not exceed a total of 15 months of rental assistance per household. Individuals who have previously received assistance from Fairfax County may apply again through this new program. All residents experiencing financial hardship are encouraged to call Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) as multiple funding resources are available beyond ERA.

How CSP Can Help

- Housing payments (rent, mortgage, fees, security deposit).
- Utilities (electric, gas, water).

Eligibility

The ERA Program will provide financial help on behalf of renters who meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Have a valid lease agreement in their name or other documents confirming the landlord-tenant relationship, and live in the unit at time of application.
- ✓ Have a rent amount that is at or below 150% Fair Market Rent.
- ✓ Have a gross household income at or below 80% of the area median income.
- ✓ Have experienced a financial hardship (directly or indirectly) due to COVID-19, including but not limited to:
 - Being laid off.
 - Place of employment has closed.
 - Reduction in hours of work.
 - Loss of spousal/child support.
- ✓ Inability to find work due to COVID-19.
- ✓ Having to stay home with children due to distance learning /closure of day care or school.
- ✓ Increase in expenses due to COVID-19, such as child care, medical bills, etc.
- ✓ Unwilling or unable to participate in previous employment due to the workplace's high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.



How to prepare before you call:

To confirm proof of eligibility, gather verifications you will need to have:

- Proof of income (i.e. paystubs, bank statements, letter from employer, pension).
- Valid lease or other documentation of landlord-tenant relationship.
- Rent ledger (landlord provides).
- Virginia W-9 (landlord provides).

When you call CSP, a Specialist will:

- Identify your needs, collect required information and provide support and link to resources.
- With your permission, communicate necessary information with Community-Based Organizations (CBO) to address your needs.

- Make an eligibility determination that your need for assistance is necessary as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Request verifications to support your request via email and/or fax.
- Confirm landlord/vendor to ensure they are willing to work with CSP.
- Send referrals to CBO requesting payment be sent and/or additional services offered.
- Provide a direct telephone number to connect with your CSP Specialist for follow-up.

Two options to obtain support:

- Apply for yourself by calling 703-222-0880.
- Contact your landlord today to apply on your behalf.

**Not sure if you qualify or need other types of assistance?
Received assistance previously for rental or utility assistance?
Call 703-222-0880 for more information.**

Immigration status, previous assistance and current employment are not barriers for assistance.

Each case is assessed individually, and assistance is provided based on eligibility requirements.

Coordinated Services Planning

703-222-0880

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Press 1 for English and other languages.

Press 2 for Spanish.

Multilingual specialists and interpretation are available.



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs services and activities. Where a TTY number is not indicated, use 711/Virginia Relay. Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-4600

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