

.22 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

REVISION 49
(01/01/21 - 12/31/21)

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) assists households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are provided directly to States, U.S. Territories, local governments, and Indian tribes. These agencies will use the funds to aid eligible households through existing or newly created rental assistance programs. DES is administering this rental assistance program, as allowed under the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Eligible households may receive up to 12 months of assistance for past due rent or utilities. An additional extension of three months is available when the agency determines the extra months are needed to ensure housing stability and grantee funds are available.

Assistance must be provided to reduce an eligible household's rental arrears before the household may receive assistance for future rent payments. Once a household's rental arrears are reduced, the agency may only commit to providing future assistance for up to three months at a time. Households may reapply for additional assistance at the end of the three months when needed and the overall time limit for assistance is not exceeded. Individuals may apply online at the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#).

NOTE Payments will be issued directly to the landlord or the utility company on the renter's behalf.

The ERAP is available to both landlords and renters. While both may apply for assistance, eligibility is based on the renter's address and ability to meet the following criteria:

- The renter has a risk of homelessness, housing instability, or unsafe living conditions demonstrated by the following:
 - Eviction Notice
 - Utility Shutoff Notice
 - Past Due Rent Notice
 - Other documents that serve as evidence of unsafe or unhealthy living conditions or instability

NOTE ERAP applicants must provide a photo ID, and a utility disconnect notice, or an eviction notice, or

other proof of hardship, such as a termination letter. Renters must provide a copy of the lease or rent agreement.

- The renter, or a member of the renter's household, is eligible for unemployment insurance benefits or has experienced financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The renter's household income is less than or equal to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

NOTE The payment of existing housing-related arrears that could result in the eviction of an eligible household is prioritized. Assistance priority is also given to renters with household incomes under 50% AMI, and to those who have been unemployed 90 days or longer.

This program will serve the following counties:

- Apache
- Cochise
- Coconino
- Gila
- Graham
- Greenlee
- La Paz
- Mohave
- Navajo
- Pinal
- Santa Cruz
- Yavapai

NOTE Several large counties including Maricopa County, Pima County, and Yuma County, are receiving funding directly from the federal government. Those counties plan to launch rental assistance programs that are separate from this program. Renters residing in counties other than those listed above are encouraged to contact their local jurisdictions for similar programs.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program payments are not countable as income or a resource for any other state or federal assistance program.

NOTE The participant's rental or utility expense amount(s) must not be removed or reduced as a result of participating in this program.

Key the OX Unearned Income Code in the INC TYPE field on UNIC.
Document the case file with the following: Budgeted HR 133
Emergency Rental Assistance

ARCHIVED (Valid until 01/24/2022)