



Apartment Owners  
Advisory Council

July 16, 2020

## **BREAKING NEWS: COVID Rent Relief Program begins taking applications Thursday**

BRI and the AOAC, as well as other groups across the state, eagerly supported the passage of a law in the New York State legislature to establish a COVID Rent Relief Program. On this Thursday, July 16, NYS HCR will begin accepting applications for the program FOR TWO WEEKS ONLY.

The program will provide a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household's landlord for households who can document that they lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is funded through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, which is part of the federal CARES Act. The program is administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal and access to program applications will be available here on Thursday, July 16 at: <https://hcr.ny.gov/RRP>

We suggest you to reach out to tenants who may have missed one or more rental payments since March and encourage them to apply. To be eligible, the renter will need to make the application, as there will be specific information that only he/she/they can provide. In order to be eligible, households need to have been "rent burdened" before AND after March 1, 2020. DHCR has prepared this video to explain that term and the program as a whole to renters who might qualify.

The rental assistance payment will cover the difference between the household's rent burden on March 1, 2020 and the increase in rent burden for the months the household is applying for assistance. Households can apply for up to four months in rental assistance.

To qualify for the program, applicants must meet all of the eligibility requirements:

- Must be a renter with a primary residence in New York State.
- March 1, 2020 and at the time of application, household income (including unemployment benefits) must be below 80 percent of the Area Median Income, adjusted for household size. (Information on finding the Area Median Income for Westchester County households is available on DHCR's FAQ for the program at <https://hcr.ny.gov/RRP>.)
- Before March 1, 2020 and at the time of application, the household must have been "rent burdened," which is defined as paying more than 30 percent of gross monthly income towards rent.
- Applicants must have lost income during any period between April 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020.

DHCR will prioritize households with greatest economic and social need, accounting for income, rent burden, percent of income lost and risk of homelessness. The rental assistance payment will cover the difference between the household's rent burden on March 1, 2020 and the increase in rent burden during the period the household is applying for assistance. Households can apply for up to four months in rental assistance for the months of April through July. The program is open to households that rent apartments, single-family homes, manufactured homes and manufactured home lots.

A full FAQ is available at <https://hcr.ny.gov/RRP>. The application will be available on the same site beginning Thursday, July 16.

Stay safe and be well --

Your Apartment Owners Advisory Council / BRI Staff