4/28/2023

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) has supported our residents in obtaining and remaining securely housed. To that end, we did not pursue legal action for failure to pay rent due to the ongoing challenges that directly affected our residents. On August 15, 2021, Montgomery County's Executive Order that prohibited residential evictions for non-payment of rent expired. Since that time, HOC's Property Managers and Resident Counselors have been working with residents to provide resources to prepare for rent/lease enforcement. **In order to continue providing high-quality affordable housing to thousands of County residents, where appropriate, HOC will begin pursuing lease enforcement (including eviction) to obtain delinquent rent, in May, 2023.**

HOC's top priority is keeping our residents housed. **If you DO NOT have an outstanding balance due to unpaid rent and you have already received assistance through HOC, there is no further action needed.**

If you have an outstanding balance as a result of a hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HOC strongly encourages you to contact your Property Manager and apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) COVID-19 Rent Relief Program. This program provides rental assistance to families who have experienced a COVID-related hardship. The application process has been simplified to make it easier for residents to apply and for your convenience, we have included information on eligibility criteria below. **HOC has extended the deadline and is currently accepting applications for COVID-19 Rent Relief funds through June 1, 2023**. Once determined eligible, you may qualify for up to six (6) months of assistance.

If you are interested in learning more about how to apply for the CDBG Rent Relief Program, please join us in one of the upcoming virtual information sessions listed below:

- **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 - 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** (Spanish Translation will be made available)
  Please Dial-in: 301 715 8592 Webinar ID: 811 9631 6941 Passcode: 830500
  or visit https://hocmc.org/rent-relief for the webinar link

If you are in need of TTY, translation services or in-person assistance, please contact **240-627-9400 or email help@hocmc.org**.

Below are the minimum eligibility criteria and required documents to receive CDBG Rental assistance:

CDBG Eligibility
- Must have a delinquent rent balance
- Household annual Income at or below:
    - Family of one (1) - $63,000
    - Family of two (2) - $72,000
    - Family of three (3) - $81,000
    - Family of four (4) - $90,000
- **AND** Experienced a COVID-related hardship (e.g. loss of income; reduced number of work hours; loss of childcare; etc.) resulting in unpaid rent.

CDBG Application Packet
- CDBG Application
- Self-certification of COVID-related Hardship Form (1 page)
- Conflict Disclosure Form (1 page)
- If you have recertified between January 2022 and February 2023, no additional documentation MAY be needed
- If you have NOT recertified between January 2022 and February 2023, only ONE of the following documents are required: Paystubs, Tax Return **OR** Bank Statement.

If you are unable to participate in the virtual information session or would prefer in-person assistance, you can visit one of the following HOC service center locations (M-F 8:30a - 5:00p).
- **HOC Gaithersburg Customer Service Center**
  101 Lakeforest Blvd., #200, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
- **HOC Silver Spring Customer Service Center**
  880 Bonifant Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910
- **HOC Kensington**
  10400 Detrick Ave., Kensington, MD 20895

HOC will make every effort to provide information regarding rental assistance, as well as participating in our Resident Services programs (e.g., financial literacy, STEM activities for youth, entrepreneurial classes, and much more). Learn more about our programs at www.hocmc.org.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact us at Resident.services@hocmc.org or CDBG_Rap@hocmc.org.

Sincerely,

The Housing Opportunities Commission