



## Governor Andrew Cuomo promises to improve Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Governor Andrew Cuomo promised to streamline the application process for New York's rent relief program, starting today, July 27th. The new process immediately relaxes documentation standards for both tenants and landlords and implements a streamlined process for submission of arrears documentation for multi-tenant landlords.

Since New York State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program started accepting applications on June 1st, nearly 120,000 tenants (including 91,000 households in New York City) have applied for aid. The rental assistance payment can cover up to twelve months rent and utilities arrears payments, as well as three months of additional assistance for future rent, and applicants will not need to repay this assistance. (Utilities arrears

payments are only available if you apply for rental assistance, as well.) New York's Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance plans to start distributing funds "in the coming weeks," according to THE CITY NYC.

After a full month, here's what you need to know about rent relief, the application process, and whether or not you're at risk of eviction. ([Thanks to THE CITY NYC for compiling this information.](#))

1. **It's not too late to apply for rent relief.** The Emergency Rental Assistance Program does not have a deadline. It provides relief on a first-come, first-served basis until the \$2.7 billion allocated to the program runs out. You qualify for rent relief if your household income is less than 80% of the Area Median Income (\$95,450 for a family of four), if you experienced a financial hardship as a result of the pandemic, or if you are behind on your rent for some time after March 2020.
2. **New York's eviction moratorium expires August 31st.** Everyone is expected to pay their rent when the moratorium expires (remember, it didn't cancel rent, just postponed it).
3. **You can't be evicted if you're waiting to hear back about your rent relief application.** However, if tenants have not applied for rent relief by the time the eviction moratorium expires and still owe rent debt, landlords can legally sue for eviction. If you applied for rent relief, your eviction case cannot move forward in court, and a new case cannot be started until you've heard back about qualifying for rent relief.
4. **There is still money left for tenants who haven't applied for rent relief yet.** Although we don't know how many people will be able to get assistance from the fund because the size of the awards will vary depending on how much people owe, the state anticipates the program will serve between 170,000 and 200,000 households. (About 120,000 households have applied so far.)
5. **It'll take tenants about an hour and a half to two hours to complete the online rental application ([after assembling all your documents](#)).** You have to complete the entire application in one session, and there's no paper application option. That means tenants without a computer need to complete their application on their phone, or get help from a

family, friend, or organization that can provide computer access. Undocumented tenants can qualify for rent relief; however, there is no specific form to fill out if you don't have formal documents to show your loss of income or rent debt amount. You have to write those letters yourself.

[CLICK HERE FOR IMPACCT BROOKLYN'S GUIDE TO THE EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM](#)

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