



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

July 8, 2021

Mr. Geoff Moulton, Court Administrator
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 1500
PO Box 61260
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106

Dear Mr. Moulton:

Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) extended the national moratorium on evictions for one month until July 31, 2021. The CDC indicated this will be the final extension of the moratorium. In so doing, they also delayed the potential wave of evictions for nearly one in five Pennsylvania households at risk of losing their home in the next two months. Even with this short-term reprieve, I am still gravely concerned about how the end of protections against eviction will affect individuals and families across Pennsylvania.

Evictions and a potential spike of people experiencing homelessness represent a serious threat to public health, but the ripple effects extend further. A wave of evictions would have ramifications for workforce, economic development, education, public assistance, child welfare, public safety, and nearly all facets of our communities. Our communities are working tirelessly to recover from the pandemic and resulting economic crisis – they cannot afford further, long-term destabilization.

Pennsylvania established the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) through a joint effort of the Wolf Administration and the General Assembly to allocate \$569 million in rental and utility assistance funds to Pennsylvania households affected by COVID-19 through partnerships with counties. An additional \$278 million in rental assistance was directly allocated to Pennsylvania's 18 largest counties and the City of Pittsburgh by the federal government, making a total of \$847 million available to support renters and landlords feeling the strain of this economic insecurity across Pennsylvania.

Funding for ERAP comes from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and further rental assistance funds (known as ERAP 2) expected to exceed an additional \$450 million were included in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. ERAP 2 funds will be available later in the year. These programs represent a historic opportunity to prevent a deeper housing, public health, and economic crisis that a surge of evictions would create and to help people most affected by the economic insecurity of this past year emerge from this pandemic with a stable place to live.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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I am writing to you today to respectfully seek the judicial branch's assistance to help educate both landlords and tenants about the ERAP programs as we look to move forward from the COVID-19 pandemic. As an addendum to this letter, I am including fact sheet on the ERAP developed by the Department of Human Services. I hope it can be helpful in educating judges and litigants on how ERAP can assist through difficult circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg Snead". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meg" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Snead".

Meg Snead
Acting Secretary of Human Services