



NEWS RELEASE

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California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program to Continue Past September 30

*State urges renters impacted by COVID-19 to apply for relief to protect themselves
against eviction*

SACRAMENTO – State officials today reassured Californians that the California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program is not ending on September 30, 2021.

Rental and utility assistance is available, and the state will continue to receive applications well past September 30.

“California is administering the nation’s largest rental assistance program. Between the state and local programs, California has received approximately \$5.2 billion in funds to assist low-income households, with a significant amount of these funds distributed and billions of dollars left to keep Californians housed,” said Lourdes Castro Ramírez, secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. “We are working closely with local leaders and many nonprofits to ensure that these funds are targeted and deployed as effectively as possible.”

In addition to the availability of rental assistance, renters can still protect themselves against evictions in the months to come. Starting on October 1, 2021, state eviction protections will be in place through March 31, 2022, for low-income households that have completed a rental assistance application.

“We will continue to assist financially distressed renters with rent relief until the money for the California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program runs out,” said Gustavo Velasquez, director of the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). “We urge anyone who owes back rent or who will have problems paying upcoming rent to apply as soon as possible, but no one should fear that the rent relief program is going away anytime soon.”

The California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program continues to increase the amount paid to landlords and renters. As of September 24, nearly \$1.2 billion has been obligated, which means that renters have been deemed eligible for assistance and payment is in process or has been paid out. Of the \$1.2 billion, \$584.8 million has been paid to assist nearly 50,000 households.

State and local rent relief programs continue to spend down the first round of \$2.6 billion in federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program dollars, with estimates that the state program will have paid or approved for payment its entire state share of \$1.5 billion in Round 1 funds by the end of the month.

In addition to existing Round 1 dollars, another \$2.6 billion in Round 2 dollars is available to state and local rent relief programs. The state program anticipates it will begin using Round 2 dollars starting on October 1.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until funds are exhausted. Applicant information is private, and applicants will not be asked about immigration status or asked to provide proof of citizenship.

For more information and to apply for the program, visit HousingIsKey.com or call the California COVID-19 Rent Relief Call Center at 833-430-2122 (toll free) daily between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

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