



## HOUSING ASSISTANCE As of May 19, 2020

### Q. Can I be evicted during the public health emergency?

A. During the public health emergency and for 60 days thereafter, your landlord cannot file an eviction case against you in DC Superior Court. Your landlord also cannot evict you, charge you late fees, or increase your rent during the public health emergency.

### Q. I can't keep up with my rent. Is there a program that can help me?

Yes, there are 4 programs that may help you:

(1) **Rent Payment Plan.** During the public health emergency and for one-year thereafter ("covered period"), all landlords must develop a rent-payment-plan program for tenants who have notified the landlord that they cannot pay some or all of their rent due because of the public health emergency. Under the Program, a landlord must:

- Permit an eligible tenant to enter into a payment plan for rent that comes due during the covered period;
- Waive fees or penalties arising out of a payment plan;
- Not report to a credit bureau as delinquent the rent subject to the payment plan;
- Notify tenants of the availability, terms, and application process for the program; &
- Memorialize all payment plans in writing.

(2) **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program.** The Department of Housing and Community Development has a rental assistance program administered by Housing Counseling Services and the Latino Economic Development Center. You can call 202 667-7713, 202-588-5102, or 202-540-7401 to get screened. You must have lived in your unit since February 29, 2020 and demonstrate you are delinquent on rent or unable to pay rent. Your household must make 60% or less of the median area income and experienced a loss of income due to COVID-19. Priority will be given to tenants in buildings that qualify (generally, buildings with 50 units or less with a concentrated number of lower income residents). Assistance can be applied to rent from April 2020 onward for at least 6 months. For more information, go to:

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/dhcd-tenant-based-rental-assistance-program>.

(3) **New 202 Assist Program (Applications Open June 1, 2020).** The John Wall Foundation has a new rental assistance program administered by Lydia's House and Housing Counseling Services. The 202 Assist Program is for Ward 8 residents impacted by COVID-19. For more information, go to [www.202assist.com](http://www.202assist.com) or call Lydia's House at 202 373-1050.

(4) **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).** The Department of Human Services has an ongoing rental assistance program. Tenants can apply on-line at <https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bfpwsjvh2> or call ERAP providers directly. The list of ERAP providers, their contact information, and the days and hours when they accept calls are available at <https://dhs.dc.gov/service/emergency-rental-assistance-program>. You must make not more than 125% of the federal poverty level based on family size, be behind on your rental payments, and not have received ERAP funds in the last 12 months.

### Q. I heard landlords can get mortgage deferrals. Will that help me?

A. Your landlord must notify you within 5 days of receiving a mortgage deferral and give you rent relief that is proportional to 80% of the deferred mortgage amount. Your landlord may require you to repay that amount.

### Q. What if I become homeless during the public health emergency?

A. Families at risk of homelessness can call the Virginia Williams Resource Center at 202-526-0017 or their ERAP provider. Families seeking emergency shelter can call the DC Shelter Hotline at 202-399-7091 or 311.