MAXIMIZING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO FIGHT POVERTY

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Voice of the Poor & National Housing Task Force



RENT ASSISTANCE

- Over \$50 billion in Emergency Rental Assistance and housing (shelter) support.
- Amounts available and criteria can differ by state/community.
- Entitlement communities (greater than 200,000K).

- ➤ Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)--U.S. Treasury
- National Low-Income Housing Coalition Assistance Database and Additional Local Programs



RENT ASSISTANCE

Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Programs

Use the search bar to find programs in your area. If you cannot find a city or county program, your state, territory, or tribal program may be able to serve you. If you cannot find any program in your area, call 2-1-1 or your local housing authority for assistance.

SEARCH STATE, TERRITORY, TRIBE, OR LOCALITY

Search for the city or county you reside in; if you don't see a program for your locality, you should search for your state, territory, or tribe, as applicable.

Search..

445 programs were found.

Last updated: 6/28/21

State / Territory	Communities Served	Program	Program Status
Alabama		Alabama Emergency Rental Assistance Program	Accepting applications
Alabama	Baldwin County	Baldwin County Emergency Rental Assistance Program	Accepting applications
Alabama	Birmingham	Birmingham Emergency Rental Assistance Program	Accepting applications

Courtesy of the National Low Income Housing Coalition



UTILITIES ASSISTANCE

- \$4.5 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help households with utility assistance.
- \$500 million for low-income households with excessive water and wastewater bills or arrearages.
- Great opportunity to leverage Vincentian Resources.

Resources

Find your community's LIHEAP program here



NATIONAL EVICTION MORATORIUM

- Through July 31, 2021. *This is the LAST Extension*
- Tenants being evicted must be notified about the CDC order with the eviction notice or eviction lawsuit.
- Eligible households must complete a signed declaration
- Complete documentation is critical.

- Eviction Moratorium FAQ
- Declaration for Renters (PDF)



HOTELS & EXTENDED STAY

- Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) reimbursing 100% of the costs associated with "Non-Congregate" housing/sheltering solutions such as hotels, motels, dorms, etc.
- Must be pursuant to a declared public health emergency.
- Temporary, short-term response--does not substitute for permanent, long-term solution (e.g. Rapid Re-Housing).

- > Find your State Emergency Management Agency
- > FEMA Non-Congregate Sheltering Guidance (technical)



IMPACT PAYMENTS ("STIMULUS")

- Individuals receive \$1,400/Married Couples \$2,800
 Additional \$1,400 per child (with phase-outs)
- Issued through Treasury Department direct deposit.
- Mixed Status households (at least one parent and child have SSNs) *can* receive EIP.
- Addresses of shelters, places of worship, etc. *can* be used for people and families experiencing homelessness.

- Guide for people experiencing homelessness (CFPB)
- > 'Get My Payment' to check status of payment & method



CHILD TAX CREDIT

- Expansion estimated to cut child poverty in half.
- Income threshold (\$2,500) eliminated.
- Fully refundable.
- Increased to \$3,000 for children 6-16; \$3,600 under six.
- Option to receive "Advance Payments" for the rest of the year.

- ChildTaxCredit.gov
- > Tax Credit Non-filer Sign-up
- > IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Finder



HUNGER & NUTRITION

- 15% increase in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit through September 30.
- Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program extended for children unable to access free school lunches.
- \$1 billion for food assistance to Puerto Rico and other territories.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) extended special summer meals regulations to increase access.

- USDA "Meals for Kids" Food Finder
- Feeding America



BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS

- \$3.2 billion in broadband internet access for underserved communities.
- Low-income households can qualify for a \$50/month rebate (\$75/month for households on tribal lands) and a one-time discount toward the purchase of a computer.

Resources

➤ Get more information and check household eligibility for the Emergency Broadband Benefit here.



MEDICARE

 Medicare Savings Programs can help eligible beneficiaries pay for deductibles, copayments, or other uncovered medical expenses.

Resources

Medicare Savings Programs



HEALTH INSURANCE

- Affordable Care Act Exchanges: Subsidies to individuals who do not currently qualify because income is too high, and increased subsidies for many individuals who already qualify, through 2022.
- COBRA: Federal government pays 100% of premiums through September 30, 2021.

- Find local help in a community: localhelp.healthcare.gov or ayudalocal.cuidadodesalud.gov
- COBRA application assistance: dol.gov/cobra-subsidy



FUNERAL EXPENSES

- Funeral assistance program for family members that have lost loved ones to COVID-19; will reimburse eligible funeral costs incurred after January 20, 2020.
- No income eligibility requirements.

Resources

> FEMA Funeral Assistance



QUESTIONS?

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