



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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## **Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Applications Accepted Beginning March 15**

**PITTSBURGH** – Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald today announced that a new round of federal rental and utility assistance will be accessible to eligible county residents beginning at 8 AM on March 15. At that time, applications to the Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance Program will be available at <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us>.

“While we continue to deal with the effects of the pandemic, we are excited that there will soon again be aid for those in a rent or utility crisis resulting from financial impacts of COVID-19,” said County Executive Fitzgerald. “We are grateful to the more than 20 organizations from throughout the County who are working with us to ensure an efficient and smooth application process and greater access to the available funding for those most in need.”

The assistance program, administered by the county Department of Human Services (DHS), is a collaborative effort to distribute \$79.9 million in combined federal funding awarded to the county, the City of Pittsburgh, and the State of Pennsylvania. The program will be overseen by ACTION-Housing. Applicants are eligible if they have been financially impacted by the pandemic in a number of ways; this includes provable loss of income or employment, COVID-related increases in expenses such as medical bills or care of a household member, or the inability to get back to work for those laid off prior to March 2020.

Applications will only be accepted online, via <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us>, but site users will be able to set up an account to update their application and track its status. Once all the documentation is submitted, applications will be reviewed, and assessed for eligibility. It is expected that applicants will have a response to their submissions within three weeks, rather than the much longer timeframe of earlier rent relief programs. Representatives from ACTION-Housing, the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh and YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh will be contacting applicants to help them through the process, and those who get denied will have the opportunity to appeal.

“We appreciate the work of all our partners who are stepping up to ensure an efficient and successful program for everyone who is eligible,” said DHS Director Erin Dalton. “While the digital component to this year’s relief program will help make the approval process quicker, we recognize that it could be a barrier for some, and we have instituted efforts to make the application process accessible to all.”

Drop-in centers will be available around the county for those who do not have computer access, and staff will be available to answer questions and help scan in and upload documents. In addition, those without internet access and who cannot make it to a drop-in center can call ACTION-Housing at 412-248-0021.

Complete eligibility guidelines, a list of necessary documents, drop-in center locations and other information can be found at <https://covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us>.

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Erin Dalton, Director

**Department of Human Services – Office of Community Relations**

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[www.alleghenycounty.us](http://www.alleghenycounty.us)

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