



Summary of New Legislation for Housing and Homelessness Assistance Programs in Pennsylvania

On May 29, 2020, Governor Wolf signed into law legislation allocating the commonwealth's federally funded Coronavirus Relief Fund to various programs across the state (Act 24 of 2020). The legislation included the creation of a dedicated rent and mortgage assistance program to help those whose livelihoods have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic stay in their homes.

Title The COVID Relief Mortgage and Rental Assistance Grant Program Act 24 of 2020	Application Requirements Applications will be accepted starting July 6, 2020. The deadline for submitting applications is September 30, 2020. The guidelines, applications, and information on the rental and mortgage assistance programs can be found at https://www.phfa.org/pacares/ .
Administering Agency Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)	The landlord or mortgagee must attest to releasing the lessee or mortgagor of any remaining obligation for any past due or future rent or mortgage payment for which the agency pays the landlord or mortgagee
Amount Allocated to Program \$175,000,000 in total funds allocated to this program <ul style="list-style-type: none">A minimum of \$150,000,000 to rental assistanceUp to \$25,000,000 in mortgage assistance	PHFA will verify the name of the lessee or mortgagor with the Department of Labor and Industry's Bureau of Unemployment Compensation to ensure the less or mortgagor became unemployed after March 1, 2020. If an applicant is seeking assistance based on reduced work hours or wages, they must submit information verifying the reduction in hours or wages.
Eligible Candidates A lessee, mortgagor, landlord or mortgagee may submit the name of the lessee or mortgagor from whom rent or mortgage payments are sought. Assistance will be awarded to property owners on behalf of lessees or mortgagors who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">became unemployed after March 1, 2020, ORhad their annual household income reduced by 30 % or more due to reduced work hours and wages related to COVID-19	PHFA will only make payments on behalf of households with an annualized current income of no more than the "upper limit of median income" (100% area median income, visit the link for county income limits) https://www.phfa.org/mhp/rent_and_income_limits/
	Rental Assistance Payments Payments equal to 100% of monthly rent, not to exceed \$750 per month, for a maximum of six months. Payments will be made by November 30, 2020.
	Mortgage Assistance Payments Payments equal to 100% of monthly mortgage, not to exceed \$1,000 per month, for a maximum of six months. Payments will be made by November 30, 2020.
	Reporting Requirements for PHFA PHFA has to report on the program by December 31, 2020 including data on, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of landlords appliedNumber of mortgagees appliedTotal assistance soughtAverage amount of assistance applied forAverage amount of assistance providedNumber of landlords and mortgagees that received assistance by county

In addition, landlords must have the loss of rental income be at least 30 days past due.



Additional New COVID Relief Resources in Pennsylvania

Listed below are a few of the programs that received additional funding from Pennsylvania's Coronavirus Relief Fund as listed in HB2510.

Homeless Assistance Program

- \$10,000,000 to the existing Homeless Assistance Program. Counties that participate in the Human Services Block Grant Program must use the funds for eligible services under the existing Homeless Assistance Program.

Food Assistance Programs

- \$20,000,000 to the Department of Agriculture for the State Food Purchase Program for grants to counties for the purchase of food to be provided to needy persons in the Commonwealth. This includes up to \$5,000,000 for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System Program.
- \$10,000,000 to the Department of Community and Economic Development for the Food Access Initiative

Community Development

- \$625,000,000 to the Department of Community and Economic Development for County Block Grants

Legal Services

- \$8,000,000 to the Department of Human Services for Legal Services

Healthcare and Medical Programs

- \$10,000,000 to the Department of Health for COVID Relief – Community Based Health Care Centers
- \$632,000,000 to the Department of Human Services for Long-Term Living Programs
- \$50,000,000 to the Department of Human Services for Community Human Services
- \$10,000,000 to the Department of Human Services to Long-Term Care – Managed Care
- \$259,280,000 to the Department of Human Services to Intellectual Disabilities – Community Waiver Program
- \$10,000,000 to the Department of Human Services for Domestic Violence Programs

The legislation allocating this new funding does not provide additional information on the above referenced programs. The Housing Alliance will keep our network apprised of additional information as it becomes available from the administering agencies.