

COVID-19 Rent Relief Program – October/November/December Frequently Asked Questions

Program Summary

The COVID-19 Rent Relief Program is for renters who cannot afford to pay their rent due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This program expands upon previous rent relief programs through MaineHousing. **You can apply for this expanded program even if you applied and received funds before. This program now includes people who live in MaineHousing financed properties and do not have a Section 8 voucher or receive other governmental rental assistance.**

This program is first come, first served and can help cover October, November, and December rent. You can apply for up to \$1000/month for each month, even if you received funds in other rounds of the program.

You may apply for October and November rent as of November 2, 2020. December program applications begin on November 23, 2020.

Renters apply and the benefit is paid directly to the landlord/property management company. Landlords/property managers agree to postpone the balance of the payment, not forgive it, when they agree to participate. The landlord/property manager also agrees not to evict for non-payment of rent for the month(s) for which the COVID-19 Rent Relief was applied.

**Note: Please list the best contact information for you and your landlord/property manager when applying.

Eligibility:

Income & Assets: You may qualify if your monthly income is within the income limits on the table below. These limits are based on household size and your county. If you can afford to pay your rent from income of any sort or from savings or other liquid assets, you are not eligible.

Location: Lewiston has its own rent relief program. If you live in Lewiston, you must apply for that program. You can [find it by clicking here](#). If Lewiston runs out of funds, you may apply for this program.

Ability to Pay: You may qualify if you cannot pay your rent due to circumstances directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples include but are not limited to:

- being laid off;
- having your place of employment closed;
- reduction in hours of work;
- having to stay home to care for your children;
- or other loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some Subsidized Housing Excluded:

You are not eligible if you:

- Get a Section 8 Voucher
- Live in Section 8 apartments
- Get Rental Assistance from USDA's Rural Development
- Live in public housing

Mobile Home Pad Rents: If you own a mobile home and rent space in a mobile home park you may be eligible for this program. If you are eligible for the program, it is only for lot rent or the mobile home rent. Park fees are not included.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1) How much will the program pay?

The program may pay up to \$1,000 per month per household for October, November, and December rent.

2) How do I apply?

Go to mainehousing.org/covidrent. Click on the 2020 COVID-19 Rent Relief Application. Select your county and fill out the application and submit it as directed. If you do not have access to a computer, call your local Community Action Agency. They are listed below.

3) How often can I apply? Can I apply for rent due in the same month or only rent that is already due?

You can apply for October and November rent at the same time for a maximum total of \$2,000 (maximum of \$1,000 per month). If you still need help paying your rent in December, you may apply on November 23, 2020.

4) What if my rent is not \$1,000? What if it is more? What if it is less?

If your rent is lower than \$1,000 each month, your landlord/property manager will receive a check for your actual rent amount. If your rent is more than \$1,000, please talk with your landlord/property manager about different payment options. This benefit will help but you still must pay the rest of your rent.

5) If the \$1,000 maximum benefit is all I can pay right now, will I be evicted?

You will not be evicted for the month that your landlord/property manager accepts the payment. By accepting payment, they agree not to evict you for non-payment of rent for the month in which the payment is made. This protection from eviction does not extend to evictions due to other non-compliance with the lease provisions or failure to pay rent for other months' rent not covered in this program.

6) Should I tell my landlord/property management company that I am applying?

Yes. Communication between you and your landlord/property manager is very important. Most do not want to lose good tenants and good communication can only help. It is also important for them to know that you've applied because they are required to fill out paperwork to receive these funds.

7) How will the application be processed? How will my landlord/property management company get paid?

When you submit your application, your local Community Action Agency will process the application. They will contact you directly to confirm the information provided on the application. Then they will contact your landlord/property manager. Once the landlord agrees to accept payment, to not evict you for that month, and fills out required paperwork, the Community Action Agency will make a payment directly to them. **It is very important to remember that payments cannot be made until all required documentation has been submitted by the applicant the landlord/property manager.**

8) How long will the program run?

The program will run until the funds are exhausted or the program ends.

9) What if my landlord/property management company won't participate?

We hope that landlords and property management companies will participate in this program and accept payments. However, there is nothing we can do to require them to participate.

Income Limits

County	Family Size							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Androscoggin	\$39,150	\$44,750	\$50,350	\$55,900	\$60,400	\$64,850	\$69,350	\$73,800
Aroostook	\$37,700	\$43,100	\$48,500	\$53,850	\$58,200	\$62,500	\$66,800	\$71,100
Cumberland	\$43,750	\$50,000	\$56,250	\$62,500	\$67,500	\$72,500	\$77,500	\$82,500
Franklin	\$37,700	\$43,100	\$48,500	\$53,850	\$58,200	\$62,500	\$66,800	\$71,100
Hancock	\$39,400	\$45,000	\$50,650	\$56,250	\$60,750	\$65,250	\$69,750	\$74,250
Kennebec	\$42,250	\$48,250	\$54,300	\$60,300	\$65,150	\$69,950	\$74,800	\$79,600
Knox	\$38,200	\$43,650	\$49,100	\$54,550	\$58,950	\$63,300	\$67,650	\$72,050
Lincoln	\$41,250	\$47,150	\$53,050	\$58,900	\$63,650	\$68,350	\$73,050	\$77,750
Oxford	\$37,700	\$43,100	\$48,500	\$53,850	\$58,200	\$62,500	\$66,800	\$71,100
Penobscot	\$37,700	\$43,100	\$48,500	\$53,850	\$58,200	\$62,500	\$66,800	\$71,100
Piscataquis	\$37,700	\$43,100	\$48,500	\$53,850	\$58,200	\$62,500	\$66,800	\$71,100
Sagadahoc	\$44,000	\$50,250	\$56,550	\$62,800	\$67,850	\$72,850	\$77,900	\$82,900
Somerset	\$37,700	\$43,100	\$48,500	\$53,850	\$58,200	\$62,500	\$66,800	\$71,100
Waldo	\$37,700	\$43,100	\$48,500	\$53,850	\$58,200	\$62,500	\$66,800	\$71,100
Washington	\$37,700	\$43,100	\$48,500	\$53,850	\$58,200	\$62,500	\$66,800	\$71,100
York	\$44,250	\$50,600	\$56,900	\$63,200	\$68,300	\$73,350	\$78,400	\$83,450