



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Montgomery County Health and Human Services Partners with Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to Offer Rent Relief for Low and Moderate-Income Renters During the COVID-19 Pandemic *Mortgage Assistance is Also Available Directly from the PHFA*

Norristown, PA (July 6, 2020) – The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has partnered with the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) to provide Rent Relief Program (RRP) payments of up to \$750 per month in rental assistance to low and moderate-income renters hurt financially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Applications open July 6.

“More than 13,000 of our renters experience extreme cost burden with rent representing more than 50% of their income at any given time,” said Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. “We hope to help as many people as possible to stay safe and healthy in their homes during the pandemic by providing much needed economic relief.”

Funding is provided by the PHFA through the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which has portioned at least \$150 million for rent relief.

Applicants must be Montgomery County residents, have lost more than 30% of their income due to reduced work hours or wages, or have become unemployed after March 1 due to COVID-19. Renters who applied for PA unemployment assistance must have done so after March 1. COVID-19 RRP funds may only be used to cover rent incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 30, 2020, and the maximum monthly assistance is \$750. Renters’ income before March 1 must be no more than 100% of the area median income or \$96,600 for a family of four based on the table below:

| Household Size | Income |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1 | \$67,700 |
| 2 | \$77,300 |
| 3 | \$87,000 |
| 4 | \$96,600 |
| 5 | \$104,400 |
| 6 | \$112,100 |
| 7 | \$119,800 |
| 8 | \$127,600 |

For more information about the Rent Relief Program and how to apply, visit www.montcopa.org/HHS or talk with a Montgomery County Office of Community Connections Navicate by calling 610.278.3929.

Montgomery County residents in need of emergency mortgage assistance can apply directly to the PHFA by visiting <https://www.phfa.org/pacares/mortgage.aspx>.

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to be a rapidly evolving situation. Please visit the Montco COVID-19 Data Hub at www.montcopa.org/covid-19 to get the latest news, geographic and demographic information, and updates.

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