



# NOTICE

## Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) provides emergency assistance to eligible D.C. residents who are facing a housing emergency. A housing emergency is when immediate action is needed to avoid homelessness, to re-establish a home, or to prevent eviction.

### Eligibility

Low income D.C. residents that are disabled, over the age of 59, or the head of a household with a child under 19 may qualify.

An applicant's income may not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guideline, which ranges from \$12,999 for a family of one to \$26,499 for a family of four.

### Benefits

ERAP will pay up to \$4,250

- in overdue rent for up to five months of back rent
- late costs/court fees to prevent eviction
- security deposits for a new residence
- first months rent

Families of seven or more or with a member that has a severe illness or disability can get as much as \$6,000 if they face a serious threat of losing their home.

ERAP will ***not*** pay utilities, mortgage payments or other housing expenses.

### Where to Apply

Catholic Charities  
220 Highview Place SE  
(202) 574 – 3442

Salvation Army  
1434 Harvard St NW  
(202) 332 – 5000

Salvation Army  
3101 MLK Jr. Ave SE  
(202) 561 – 2000

Housing Counseling Services  
2410 17<sup>th</sup> St NW  
(202) 667 – 7006

Virginia William Family Resource Center  
920 Rhode Island Ave NE  
(202) 479 – 2846

## Program History

In 2006, the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless and the Fair Budget Coalition (FBC) lobbied the D.C. Council to create an emergency assistance fund to help ***all*** low-income residents in need of emergency rental ***and*** utility assistance. As a result of their advocacy efforts, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) was formed.

Although ERAP provides essential emergency rental assistance to some District residents, restricted eligibility to families, seniors, the disabled, and people earning under 125% of the federal poverty guidelines severely limits the program from serving all individuals in need.

In addition, advocates envisioned the program providing much needed emergency utility assistance in addition to rental assistance, rather than rental assistance alone.

Finally, advocates argued for the program to be co-located with the Landlord-tenant court to make applying for emergency assistance easily accessible to all people in need.

## Program Need

In Fiscal Year 2008, \$7.2 million was given to ERAP and an extra million had to be added to meet the overwhelming need for emergency rental assistance. Despite the supplemental money, most if not all of the funds will be used this fiscal year.

## Potential Areas for Advocacy

- Increase eligibility to single adults and individuals living at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Provide emergency utility assistance in addition to rental assistance
- Increase accessibility to emergency assistance by allowing individuals to apply at Landlord-tenant court
- Increase funding to appropriate levels to serve ***everyone*** in need

For more information or to get involved in the advocacy efforts contact:

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