

# Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Households adversely affected by COVID-19 can qualify for up to **12 months of past due rent, three months of future rent** and up to **12 months of overdue utility bills**. Applications accepted beginning June 1.



**For more information, visit [otda.ny.gov/ERAP](https://otda.ny.gov/ERAP)**



The program is now live and could be a very important resource for many by paying back up to 12 months of rent arrears and 3 months of prospective rent, as well as utility payment debt. Those who are behind on rent may be eligible for ERAP and should apply as soon as possible.

**The application is ONLY available online, at this link: <https://nysrenthelp.otda.ny.gov/en/>**

Please be aware that there have been some technical difficulties with the rollout and it is recommended that people try to gather all relevant documents first (see below a checklist) and then apply all at one time, rather than signing in and out multiple times.

Those who sent this information indicated that the process takes about 90 minutes.

**Read on for where to refer people who may not have the technology or internet access to apply from home.**

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New York residents are eligible for ERAP if they meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- Household gross income is at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). These income limits differ by county and household size. A household may qualify based on current income or calendar year 2020 income that is at or below 80 percent AMI.
- On or after March 13, 2020, a member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income, incurred significant costs or experienced financial hardship, directly or indirectly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The applicant is obligated to pay rent at their primary residence and has rental arrears (rent overdue) at their current residence for rent owed on or after March 13, 2020.
- The household must be at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which can be demonstrated by having rental arrears owed on or after March 13, 2020.
- There are NO immigration status requirements to qualify for the program.

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**See Next Page for Items Needed to Apply**

## Tenant applicants need to provide a significant amount of paperwork to apply:

- Personal identification for all household members. Acceptable forms of identification include:  
A photo ID, driver license or non-driver government-issued ID, passport, EBT/Benefits Issuance Card, birth or baptismal certificate, school registration.
- Social Security number of any household members who have been issued one. Individuals do not need to have a lawful immigration status to qualify for the program.
- Proof of rental amount, signed lease, even if expired. If no lease is available then proof can be shown through a rent receipt, canceled check or money order. If no documentation is available, landlord attestation will be accepted.
- Proof of residency and occupancy – Signed lease, rent receipt, utility bill, school records, bank statement, postal mail with name of applicant, insurance bill, or driver license. Proof should be current.
- Proof of Income to document income eligibility:  
Documents demonstrating monthly income for the prior month, such as pay stubs, bank account deposit verification, unemployment benefits letter, or other proof;  

OR

Documents demonstrating annual income for 2020, such as a W-2 tax form from an employer, an annual statement of earnings, or a copy of a completed income tax return, such as a 1040, 1040EZ, 1099 tax form, or other evidence of 2020 annual income.  
Self-attestation of income is permitted in certain circumstances where no documentation is available such as certain self-employment.
- Copy of gas or electric utility bill, if applying for help paying for utility arrears at the same rental unit.

Applicants will be asked to attest that on or after March 13, 2020, a member of the household received unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced other financial hardship, directly or indirectly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The applicant will need to sign the application form and associated certifications agreeing that the information provided in the application is accurate.

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The checklist of documents can be found at this link:

<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/Renter-Checklist.pdf>

and there are versions in various languages other than English here:

<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/>.

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If you do not have access to a computer/scanner, and need help applying, please contact one of the organizations below, depending on which borough you live in ([see here for a list of city wide referrals](#))  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/new-york-emergency-rental-assistance-program-erap.page>

If anyone has any questions regarding this program, they can call

Catholic Migration Services at 347-472-3500 or they any of the organizations listed below for assistance:

### Queens

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc -- 646-248-6602

RiseBoro Community Partnership -- 718-547-2800

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services (CCNS) -- 718-880-3286

### Brooklyn

Black Veterans for Social Justice, Inc. -- 718-852-6004 / Good Shepherd Services (GSS) -- 877-827-7369

Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty -- 929-292-9480 /

RiseBoro Community Partnership -- 718-547-2800