



HOUSING & PLANNING



HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN

2021 Updated Program with up to 12 - 15 months of rent assistance

RENT assistance

for Austin tenants making a low-income & impacted by COVID-19.

WHAT IS IT?

To help Austinites at risk of losing their rental housing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Austin created the Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT) Assistance Program. This program helps pay for: current, past, and future rents, plus fees related to your lease. RENT can pay for unpaid rent due between April 2020 and December 2021, up to 12 - 15 months. Future rent will be paid 3 months at a time.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

The funds will help income-eligible tenants in the City of Austin who:

- » Live within Austin's full purpose city limits & make 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

1 person living in the home	2 people living in the home	3 people living in the home	4 people living in the home	5 people living in the home	6 people living in the home
Maximum income \$54,700	Maximum income \$62,500	Maximum income \$70,300	Maximum income \$78,100	Maximum income \$84,350	Maximum income \$90,600

- » Are currently on a lease or contractually bound relationship.
- » Have documentation showing that COVID-19 has affected them financially (e.g., *pay stubs, unemployment notice, etc.*).

HOW WILL THE RENT PROGRAM WORK?

Apply online at AustinTexas.gov/RENT. Eligible applicants will be randomly selected, and if qualified, RENT assistance will be paid directly to the renter's landlord, unless the landlord refuses to participate.

The rent amount is determined by the lease. If the rent on the lease exceeds 175% of the Fair Market Rent (FMR) based on the unit's bedroom size, the rent assistance will be capped at the 175% limit.

The application portal will remain open through September 2021, or until all available funds have been committed. You can still receive RENT assistance if you received RENT assistance last year.

» To learn more about the RENT Assistance Program and other resources available, call **512.488.1397** or go to **AustinTexas.gov/RENT**

WILL SOME APPLICATIONS GET PRIORITY?

Applications are placed into four groups:

- » **Priority 1:** Renters who qualify for unemployment for at least 90 consecutive days before application and have zero or extremely low income (*at or less than 30% of the area median income*).
- » **Priority 2:** Renters who qualify for unemployment for at least 90 consecutive days before application and have low income (*between 30% and 50% of the area median income*).
- » **Priority 3:** Renters that meet one of the following criteria:
 - o Renters who qualify for unemployment for at least 90 consecutive days before the application.
 - o Low income renters (*at or less than 50% of the area median income*).
 - o Renters who have experienced homelessness in the last 3 years.
 - o Renters who applied for the RENT Assistance program between August 2020 – December 2020 and did not receive rent help (*this does not include inactive applications and applications that were denied*).
- » **Priority 4:** All other submitted applications.

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Documentation is not required at the time of application. If your application is selected for eligibility review, you will be notified to submit the following documentation:

- » A Self-Certification of COVID Impact form (*provided by the Program*) stating you were impacted by COVID; the form will require an electronic signature.
- » Proof of current monthly income for all household members (*e.g., recent pay stubs, unemployment benefits letter, etc.*). Self-certification is available in some cases.
- » Proof your household is at risk of experiencing homelessness or that your housing is unstable, which may include a past due utility/rent notice or eviction notice.
- » Your current lease showing address, leaseholder, amount of lease rent, term of lease or if your lease is on a month-to-month basis; the lease must have been signed by you and your landlord.
- » Government issued photo ID for the head of household (*e.g., driver's license, Passport, or other photo ID*).

DO I HAVE TO BE A US CITIZEN OR LEGAL RESIDENT TO APPLY?

No. There is no requirement for applicants to be a U.S. citizen or legal resident to apply.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Eviction Prevention or
Legal Representation in Court**
www.trla.org
1-888-988-9996

**Utility Assistance
Austin Energy Customers**
austinenergy.com
512-494-9400

**Tenant/Landlord
Counseling or Mediation**
www.housing-rights.org
512-474-1961

**Non-Austin
Energy Customers**
Travis County:
www.traviscountytexas.gov

**Tenant Relocation
Services**
(Moving, Storage)
512-974-3100

State of Texas
TexasRentRelief.com
833-9TX-RENT
833-989-7368