**NC HOPE Program accepting applications from renters impacted by COVID-19 pandemic**

North Carolina renters who are behind on rent or utility payments, or face homelessness or eviction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, can apply for financial help to stay in their homes through the NC Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions Program (HOPE).

The pandemic has placed thousands of households across North Carolina at risk of losing their homes, and low-income renters are among the hardest hit. The HOPE Program provides rent and utility bill assistance to low-income renters, working to prevent evictions and utility disconnections. To date, the program has paid more than $193 million to landlords and utility companies statewide.

The Hope Program, which is managed by the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resiliency, is funded with federal funds provided to the state. North Carolina renters who need help can apply to the program by visiting [www.HOPE.NC.gov](http://www.HOPE.NC.gov). On the HOPE website, applicants will find eligibility requirements, frequently asked questions, and the online application – all available in English and Spanish.

Once approved by the HOPE Program, renters can receive up to 12 months of rent and utility assistance, which may include up to nine months in past due rent. Applicants may also receive forward rent and utilities assistance, which must be applied for three months at a time.

To be eligible to receive HOPE assistance, applicants must be renting their residence in any of [the 88 counties served by the NC HOPE Program](https://www.rebuild.nc.gov/hope-program/find-program). A renter must also have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19, and have a household income at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI) for the county where they live.

Applicants who need assistance can find more information and apply online at www.HOPE.NC.gov. Applicants who cannot access the HOPE website or who have additional questions may contact the HOPE Call Center at (888) 9ASK-HOPE or (888) 927-5467 to speak with a program specialist. The call center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.