



**EMERGENCY RENTAL
RELIEF PROGRAM**
BERGENCOUNTYCARES.ORG

Brought to you by
Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco &
The Board of County Commissioners



**Emergency Rental Assistance Program:
*Tenant Information***

Overview

Bergen County has received funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury intended to provide rental utility assistance to eligible households negatively impacted due to COVID-19, and the resulting economic environment. If you are a tenant, who has experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19's economic impact, and have been unable to meet your financial obligations of paying your rent or utility payments as of March 2020, then please check to see if you are eligible for this program to cover any owed payments. This County-wide program covers all eligible residents from all 70 municipalities and will remain open for submission as long as funds are available.

Qualifying Criteria

To qualify, you must:

- ✓ Be a Bergen County resident, immigration status does not matter. All non-US Citizens welcome to apply!
- ✓ Have a 2020 household income at or below 80% of the Area Medium Income (AMI) in Bergen County and either qualify for unemployment or experienced a reduction in household income due to COVID-19. [*See HUD 2020 Area Median Income Table for Bergen County below.]
- ✓ Be currently responsible for paying rent at your primary residence
- ✓ Be currently responsible for paying utilities for your primary residence (unless utilities are included in your rent)
- ✓ Be currently at least one month behind on your rent and/or utilities

Award Details

If you have experienced a loss or reduction in employment income due to COVID-19 in the last year, you may be eligible for up to twelve (12) months of arrears for rent and/or utilities assistance for your Bergen County residence.

If you are approved for rental and/or utility financial assistance, payment will be made directly to the landlord and/or utility provider on your behalf. Please make sure all of this information is correct or your application may be delayed and/or rejected.

You will receive a written notification of your approval and the total payment amount made to your landlord and/or utility provider.



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Application Requirements

You will need to attach the following documents to your application:

- **Proof of Identity:** Copy of your New Jersey driver's license, other types of ID card, birth certificate, or passport. **Other forms of identification or proof of residency may be acceptable upon review.*
- **Proof of Residency:** Copy of your current or expired lease or rental agreement (all pages and must show your name or the name of someone in your household), or a signed letter from your Landlord or Property Manager, or bank statements/cash receipts demonstrating recurring payments to property location. *For any households who do not provide sufficient documentation explaining residency status, a signed Self-Certifying Attestation Form will be acceptable upon review.*
- **Latest utility bills:** If seeking utility payments, then will need a copy of your utility bills from each of your electric and/or gas providers (must have your name or the name of someone in household on them) or provide the Account Number.
- **Proof of Meeting Income Level:** Will accept signed 2020 IRS Tax Return(s) or 2020 W-2 and/or 1099 forms, or unemployment letters, job loss letters from employers, pay stubs, government benefits letters (e.g Social Security Insurance award letter) *For any households who do not provide sufficient documentation explaining income status, a signed Self-Certifying Attestation Form will be acceptable upon review.*
- **Valid identification documentation for household members:** scanned copies of identification documents for all members of the household (examples include: State issued IDs or Passports for all other adult household members, birth certificates for children, school enrollment documentation for children, school immunization records for children). If other adult household members are listed on your current lease agreement or 2020 Tax Return, that will be acceptable proof of identification.



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HUD INCOME TABLE FOR BERGEN COUNTY AREA MEDIAN INCOME: (Must make at or less than the 80% AMI in order to be eligible per your household size)

Income Category	Persons in Family							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
Very Low (50%) AMI	36,500	41,700	46,900	52,100	56,300	60,450	64,650	68,800
Low (80%) AMI	54,950	62,800	70,650	78,500	84,800	91,100	97,350	103,650

If there is a discrepancy between the answers you provide and the documents you attach, processing may be delayed, or you may not qualify for financial assistance at all. Timing of the approval and payment process may vary based on adequacy of the documentation within the application. Please expect the entire approval and payment process to take upwards of 4 weeks.

If you are unsure about whether your documentation is acceptable, please email BergenCountyCaresAward@co.bergen.nj.us or please call Greater Bergen Community Action for assistance beginning on June 7th at the Call Center 201-464-8970