



NJ Department of Human Services – Division of Family Development
Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program



Recover. Rebuild. Restore.

Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

The Program

The **Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program (SHRAP)** is a temporary relief program to assist individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis resulting from Superstorm Sandy.



Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

The Goal

To provide housing stability by:

- Maintaining temporary housing while primary residence is repaired/rebuilt.
- Maintaining a primary residence to return to when repair/reconstruction is completed.
- Ensuring affected households have items deemed essential for health and safety upon returning to primary residence.



Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

Program Rules

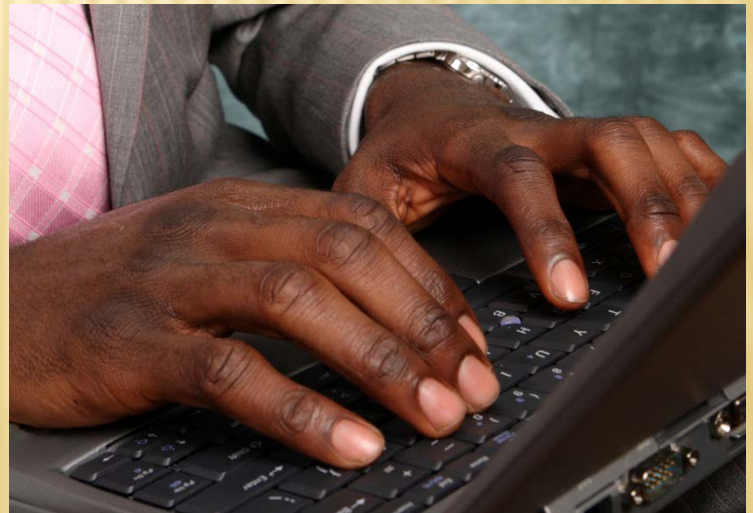
- A household may not receive greater than **\$15,000** in total assistance (any combination of housing cost, utility, and essential items);
- A household may not receive assistance for essential items in amounts greater than those listed in the table in the Program Instruction; and
- A household may not receive assistance for more than six months during the implementation of the program.



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Administration

Assistance will be available until funding is exhausted, but no later than September 30, 2015. SHRAP will be administered locally by provider agencies currently under contract with DFD to provide the *Supportive Housing Assistance Program*, unless DFD identifies an alternative provider agency. (Hours of operation must include one night or weekend a week.)



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Eligibility

This program may not be used to duplicate or supplant any subsidies, benefits, or services that have been or will be provided by the *Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)*, *NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA)*, or any other federal, state, local or private agency, or insurance company.

- Time limited to six months per household
- Financial distress directly related to housing that is a direct result of Sandy
- US citizen or eligible alien
- Neither receiving *Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)* nor eligible for *WFNJ/SSI Emergency Assistance*



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Services

Up to \$15,000 of assistance per family or individual for:

- Housing (rent or mortgage) past due or current
- Past due or current utility payments
- Replacement of essential items such as furniture and appliances



Expense must be direct result of the disaster. Can apply in county currently residing in if displaced.

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Assistance Service Types	Allowable Expenses	Allowable Payment Limits
<p>Housing (Current or Past Due)</p>	<p>Past Due Rent/Mortgage payments will be counted as one month toward the program limit for every month of rent/mortgage paid. Payment of security deposits and first month's rent are permitted.</p>	<p>Actual rent/mortgage amounts owed.</p>
<p>Utility Payments (Current or Past Due)</p>	<p>Past due utility payments will be allowable. Two months of back utilities will count as one month toward the limit on the program</p>	<p>Actual amounts owed.</p>
<p>Essential Items</p>	<p>Up to the following limits based upon the size of the household: 1 Person = \$5,000 2 Persons = \$5,800 3 Persons = \$6,600 4 Persons = \$7,400 + \$800 for each additional household member</p>	

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Assistance Service Types	Allowable Expenses	Allowable Payment Limits
	<p>Assistance may be granted, up to the following limits, towards the purchase of the following Essential Items:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Household of 1</p> <p>Bed + Linens \$525 (+ \$525 for each additional bed)</p> <p>Crib + Linens \$240 (+ 240 for each additional crib)</p> <p>Dining furniture \$532</p> <p>Washing Machine \$550</p> <p>Clothes Dryer \$550</p> <p>Refrigerator \$695</p> <p>Sofa \$550</p> <p>Air Conditioner \$275</p> <p>Lamps \$ 25 (+ \$25 for each additional member)</p> <p>Dresser \$200 (+ \$200 for each additional member)</p> <p>Microwave \$190</p> <p>Stove \$665</p> <p>Pots & Pans \$ 80</p> <p>Dinnerware \$ 80 (+ \$20 for each additional member)</p> <p>Towels \$ 30 (+ \$30 for each additional member)</p> <p>Hot Water Heater \$1,200 (Includes installation)</p> <p><i>(Legal fees, court costs and home finder fees are not covered by SHRAP.)</i></p> <p>Exceptions Assistance beyond the household limits will be considered, case by case, with prior approval by the Division of Family Development – Office of County Operations.</p>	

Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

Verification

Prior to providing services, all eligibility elements (citizenship/alien status, need resulting from Sandy, not eligible for WFNJ/SSI EA and family relationship) must be verified.

There is both an affidavit for the client to complete and a worksheet to assist you with determining eligibility.



Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

Verification

- SHRAP Affidavit



A subsequent request for SHRAP requires a new affidavit to be completed. For ongoing housing assistance, new affidavit and worksheet required each month.

Sandy Assistance Program Worksheet

1. Identifies applicant's current address and the date of application
2. Contains the eligibility criteria and corresponding record of verification provided
3. Identifies the service(s), months provided and total monetary authorization

Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

Verification



- In addition to the affidavit, at least one form of verification must be provided for each eligibility criteria on worksheet.

Worksheet refers to “other” accepted verification. Examples below

1. Sandy-related need - photographs
2. For Housing Only - utility bills such as gas, electric, sewer,
3. Duplicative Benefits – SSH
4. Residency - Tax Return, Paystub, School Record
5. WFNJ/SSI eligibility- SSI or welfare eligibility letter
6. Citizenship/Eligible Alien Status/Passport/INS Documents
7. Household composition – FAFSA (college financial aid form)

Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

Payment Process

- Vendor payment or voucher
- No cash payment to households
- Voucher must be returned from the vendor within 30 days of the issuance



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Reporting

AWARDS Foothold Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Federally approved Program Reporting & Payment Tracking for SHRAP
- Each SHRAP provider must create a SHRAP program on HMIS. Detailed direction contained in SHRAP program instruction in your packet

HMIS Reminders:

- For SHRAP cause of homelessness, enter “Natural Disaster”
- Select funding source as “SHRAP”



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SHRAP Service in HMIS

- All services are listed in a drop down box including, “essential items”
- Use “Material Goods” category for essential items
- In service details box, type in the specific item

Both vendors and county can run monthly programmatic and expenditure tracking reports from HMIS



Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

Sandy Contract Changes

- Monthly Report of Expenditures (ROE)
- Enhanced Reporting
- Additional Monitoring and Oversight Activities
 - Executive Order 125
- Verification and Review of Expenditures
- Final Close-out due to DFD by Oct. 30, 2015.



Sandy Homeowner/Renter Assistance Program

- See <http://www.nj.gov/comptroller/>
- **Federal Disaster Relief Appropriations Act** funds have been awarded in response to the severe damage, unprecedented financial hardship and economic loss caused by Hurricane Sandy. To promote the transparent distribution of these reconstruction funds in New Jersey, Governor Chris Christie issued [Executive Order No. 125](#).



Executive Order No. 125 requires that specified information concerning the allocation and expenditure of federal disaster relief funds be posted on an appropriate State website. To that end, the Sandy Transparency Portal was created to provide public access to all State contracts for the allocation and expenditure of federal disaster relief funds, including contract vendor information. In addition, the portal will list the available federal funding streams and funding criteria and will track the federal funding allotment of disaster relief funds in New Jersey.

The Office of the Comptroller website will be updated as information is available.

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Monitoring

SHRAP will be monitored by a number of government agencies:

the Office of the Comptroller,
the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding,
the Department of Human Services –
Division of Family Development,
the US DHHS Administration for Children and
Families, and county.

