



COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program

The City of San Diego's COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program helps pay past-due, unpaid rent and utilities for qualifying households with low income who experience financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Per guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury, financial help this program provides to a household is not considered income for the household.

The program does not ask about immigration status; it does not affect eligibility for the program.

The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) administers the program for the City of San Diego.

For additional information about other rent relief and eviction prevention programs, visit housinghelpsd.org

How to Apply

Visit covidassistance.sdhc.org to access the online application.

Landlords can start an application on behalf of their tenant. The tenant is required to review the application and accept or approve the information before the application is submitted for consideration.

For help with the application, call **(619) 535-6921**.

Several community-based organizations also are available to help. A complete list of these organizations is available on SDHC's website: <https://www.sdhc.org/COVID19HSAP>

Who Can Receive Help from the Program?

Households that meet the following criteria are eligible to receive help:

- Tenant has a City of San Diego address.
- Household income is at or below 80 percent of San Diego's Area Median Income (AMI), currently \$97,000 per year for a family of four
- Household has an obligation to pay rent.
- At least one member of the household has a reduction of income or other financial hardship due to COVID-19.
- Household experienced or is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Priority is given to these types of households:

- Income is at or below 50 percent of San Diego's AMI (\$60,600 per year for a family of four).
- At least one member of the household has been unemployed for 90 days and remains unemployed.

Required Information and Documents

Applicants are required to submit documents as part of the online application.

If the application requests help with rent, a statement, ledger or letter from the landlord stating the months and total rent due is required.

If the application requests help with past-due utilities, a recent statement or bill showing the account number, residence address and balance due is required.

Eligibility Criteria	Documents Accepted (Examples)
City of San Diego address and obligation to pay rent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease agreement Rent ledger Letter from landlord
Household income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 Federal Income Tax Return Pay stubs Award letter from low-income benefit/subsidy program Veterans (VA) Benefits/Pension/Retirement statements Cal-Works Notice of Action Letters Social Security (SSA) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) award letter Child Support award letter Workers Compensation, State Disability, and/or Unemployment Adoption Assistance/Foster Care Notice of Action letter
Experienced or is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past-due utility or rent notice Eviction notice Documentation of unsafe or unhealthy living conditions Rent ledger of late rent payments Landlord letter certifying rental arrears Letter showing renter is obligated to pay consumer debt, formerly rent arrears

Payments

The program is required to give priority to paying past-due, unpaid rent.

If funds remain available after past-due, unpaid rent payments have been made for qualifying households, the program can help pay the tenant's upcoming monthly rent.

A new State law enacted on June 28, 2021, allows the COVID-19 Housing Stability Assistance Program to pay 100 percent of a qualifying household's rent obligations. This law also extended the statewide temporary ban on evictions through September 30, 2021. If a landlord declines to accept payment, the program is able to provide payment directly to the tenant for it to be used to pay rent.

Qualifying households also may receive help to pay past-due, unpaid utilities. Utilities paid by the landlord are considered rent.

Rent payments will be made by direct deposit to the landlord and utility provider. A check will be mailed for the rent if the landlord does not do business with a financial institution.

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Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs and services that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and impact the lives of low-income and San Diegans experiencing homelessness.

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