



WHAT LANDLORDS NEED TO KNOW

Rental Assistance is Landlord Assistance.

Who is eligible for Rent Relief RI?

Tenant applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be considered for rent relief:

- Household income must meet certain income limits. Limits vary by location and household size.
- Qualified for unemployment benefits OR have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19.
- At risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability. This may include submitting past-due rent and utility bills or eviction notices when you apply.

Please note that the RentReliefRI program will close to new application on June 1, 2022. Completed applications must be submitted prior to 11:59 pm on June 1, 2022.

A tenant has applied to RentReliefRI already but has not been approved. Does that mean they will not be able to receive assistance when the program closes on June 1, 2022?

If the tenant has submitted an application prior to the closing date, the application will remain under review, and if they are found eligible for assistance, may be eligible for help with past due rent and utilities, current month's rent and three (3) months of forward-facing rent. After the forward-facing rent is paid, there will be no further assistance available from the RentReliefRI program.

Are tenants able to recertify for additional assistance once the program has closed to new applicants?

RentReliefRI will no longer be accepting new applications (including recertification) as of June 1, 2022. Please see the following information regarding eligibility to receive additional assistance:

- If a tenant received assistance starting on or before the month of February 2022 and are scheduled to recertify in the month of May 2022, they may be eligible to receive additional assistance. They will need to log into their account and follow the recertification process prior to 11:59 pm on June 1, 2022.
 - If a tenant has received assistance on or after the month of March 2022 and are scheduled to recertify during the month of June or July 2022, they will not be eligible to receive assistance as the program will close to new applications on June 1, 2022.
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What are the income limits?

Eligible households must be at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI), which translates to approximately \$69,200 annual income for a family of four in most parts of the State. [Click here to see the Income Limits.](#)

What costs are covered?

RentReliefRI can pay for rent and some utilities owed back to April 1, 2020. The program will also cover up to three months of upcoming rent. Applicants are eligible for up to a total of 18 months of assistance.

New applications for rent and utilities assistance that are submitted by 11:59 pm on June 1, 2022 may be eligible to receive assistance for past due rent and/or utilities, current rent, and three (3) months of forward-facing rent.

How much rent will RentReliefRI cover?

There is no monthly cap on eligible rent relief. The monthly amount is determined by the rent payment agreed to in the lease and documented arrearages.

How do landlords get paid?

Once approved, payment will be sent to landlords as soon as possible via direct deposit.

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How will landlords know when a tenant applies for assistance from the program?

Once your tenant has completed all requirements for their section of the application, the landlord will be contacted to verify and complete the landlord section of the application.

If a tenant refuses to apply for the program, is there any way for the landlord to still process a request for rental assistance?

Unfortunately, if a tenant is not willing to participate, we are not able to offer assistance. The program requires that the tenant attest to such items as income, COVID hardship, attestation that benefits are not being duplicated, etc. They are also required to provide backup documentation for that information. Without the tenant providing this information and attesting to the truthfulness of their situation, we are not able to provide assistance.

What should we do if our tenants are not willing to apply for rental assistance?

Remind your tenants that there are several important incentives to apply to the program:

- Their back rent will be paid
 - They won't have an eviction order entered against them for rental arrearages
 - They won't have their credit rating negatively impacted
 - They maintain a good relationship with their landlord
 - Most important: they get to stay in their home
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What should landlords do to help tenants prepare?

Share information on the program with your tenants and direct them to www.RentReliefRI.com for further information. You can also help them prepare by:

- Providing tenants with a copy of their current lease.
 - Providing a ledger or rent due statement, broken out by month if possible.
 - Providing tenants with the business name and address you will use for payment information.
 - Inform tenants that the RentReliefRI program is closing to new applications on June 1, 2022.
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What documents and/or information do landlords need to have?

When a tenant has completed the application, landlords will receive a request to upload several documents. Be prepared and have these ready to upload into the application portal:

- W-9 for the property owner
 - Your direct deposit or ACH payment information and a copy of a canceled check.
 - Documentation that verifies the EIN/TIN listed on your W9 (i.e. tax return document)
 - Proof of ownership
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Any specific information for management companies?

If you are a management company with multiple properties, develop and distribute guidance on what address and contact information property managers should share with tenants to use. Larger management companies can coordinate and designate someone in the corporate office to set up and connect landlord accounts to avoid duplicate applications.

Please be aware that RentReliefRI is closing to new applications on June 1, 2022. Any applications submitted on or prior to this date will still be reviewed for eligibility for assistance with past due rent and utilities, current month's rent and three (3) months of forward-facing rent. After forward facing rent is paid, there will be no further assistance available from the RentReliefRI program.

FOR MORE ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS,

VISIT WWW.RENTRELIEFRI.COM.