



WHAT RENTERS NEED TO KNOW

What is RentReliefRI?

RentReliefRI is a new rental assistance program for eligible Rhode Island renters struggling to pay their rent or utilities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both landlords and tenants may initiate an application for the program. Information from both the tenant and landlord will be required to successfully complete an application.

Who is eligible for Rent Relief RI?

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

- Your household income must meet certain income limits. Limits vary by location and household size.
- You must have 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.
- You must show you are at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability. This may include submitting past-due rent and utility bills or eviction notices when you apply.

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. Income Limits are available online at www.RentReliefRI.com.

Your income may include: Wages from jobs, self-employment, child support, alimony, unemployment insurance, Social Security Income (SSI), pensions, retirement account distributions, investment income received or business income.

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. Utilities include electricity, water, trash, and heat. You may apply for help with paying for utilities even if you do not need help paying for rent. Applicants are eligible for up to a total of 18 months of assistance. A \$50/month internet stipend is also available to applicants.

Can I apply for funds to help with utilities, even if I don't need rent relief?

Yes, renters may apply for help paying for utilities even if they do not need help paying for rent. You will need to show past amount(s) due by providing a recent statement from the utility company/ companies.



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Do I have to be on unemployment to qualify?

No. As long as you can show a COVID-related need and meet the income requirements you do not need to be on unemployment to qualify for this program.

How much rent will Rent Relief RI cover?

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

What should I do if I am facing eviction?

If you are facing eviction, please contact RI Legal Services or the Center for Justice. If you are applying for rental assistance from the RentReliefRI program, please note your eviction status as applicants in eviction proceedings are prioritized.

How will my landlord get paid?

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

What is the deadline to apply?

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through September 2022.

Am I eligible for RentReliefRI if I also received assistance from other COVID-related rental assistance programs?

Applicants who have received other COVID-related rental assistance may still be eligible for the RentReliefRI program. RentReliefRI does not cover rent or utilities already paid by another program.

You will need to create an account, apply for the program, and also meet the eligibility criteria established for RentReliefRI.

**FOR MORE ANSWERS TO
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS,**

VISIT WWW.RENTRELIEFRI.COM.



RentReliefRI

About RentReliefRI

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