



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.

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.

Does assistance from the RentReliefRI program count as “income”?

No, assistance provided to a household from the RentReliefRI program is not counted as “income” and will not be counted as a resource for determining eligibility of the household or any member of the household for benefits or assistance under any federal, state or local assistance funded from federal funds.

Does RentReliefRI assistance need to be paid back?

RentReliefRI assistance is intended for rent-burdened tenants who are struggling to make their rental or utility payments due to or during the COVID-19 pandemic and does not need to be reimbursed or paid back.

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

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.



RentReliefRI

HELP FOR RENTERS

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What information do I need to apply?

If you are a tenant, having the following documents ready will result in the quickest processing of your application:

- Documentation demonstrating that you live in Rhode Island (ex; bank statement, utility bill, driver's license)
- Proof of income (ex; wage statements, unemployment letter, 2020 tax return)
- Signed copy of your lease agreement or documentation showing tenancy (a pattern of rent payment)
- Documentation demonstrating your rental/utility arrearage (ex; past due utility bill, eviction notice, 5 day demand letter, communication from landlord)

*If you have received a notice from the court for an eviction proceeding against you, please have that documentation available.

****Even if you do not have these documents you may still be able to qualify for assistance. Please call 1-855-608-8756 or reach out to our partners here for help completing the application.**

I do not have some of the documentation asked for in the online application. What can I do?

Applicants who do not have some of the information requested in the RentReliefRI online application are able to submit a Self-Attestation Form with your application for rental and/or utility assistance.

The form can be found in www.RentReliefRI.com. The Self-Attestation Form can be filled out and uploaded into the application portal.

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.

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

VISIT WWW.RENTRELIEFRI.COM.



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About RentReliefRI

RentReliefRI is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ERA0013 awarded to the State of Rhode Island by the U.S. Department of Treasury.