

Cook County
**COVID-19
RECOVERY**
Emergency
Rental Assistance



Do you live in Suburban Cook County and need help paying rent and utilities due to COVID-19?

The Cook County Emergency Rental Assistance program pays up to 12 months of missed rent and utilities payments and up to 3 months of future rent payments.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

Applications open March 11, 2021, and will be accepted until April 2, 2021. Start the application process at cookcountyil.gov/recovery.

How do I know if I'm eligible? To be eligible, renters must:

- Live in suburban Cook County and rent their home (Landlords may apply on behalf of tenants)
- Lack access to other support (e.g., don't live in public housing or receive rental assistance from other programs)
- Have proof of financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Have a household annual income at or below these requirements:

Household size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income	\$51,000	\$58,250	\$65,550	\$72,800	\$78,650	\$84,450	\$90,300	\$96,100

What documents do I need to apply? For the initial application, renters need:

- Photo ID
- Social Security card (if available)
- Verification of income for 2020 (e.g., recent paystubs or tax returns)
- Documentation of COVID-19 financial hardship (e.g., unemployment claims or proof of income decrease)
- Latest utility bill (if applying for utility assistance)

To apply and learn more:

- Visit cookcountyil.gov/recovery
- Get text alerts by texting: AlertCook to 888-777



For assistance with your application and language translation services, please contact the Cook County Emergency Rental Assistance Program helpline at 877-426-6515.

If you live in the City of Chicago and need rental assistance, visit chi.gov/housinghelp for more information

Q&A for Renters and Landlords about COVID-19 Rental Assistance

Q. What is COVID-19 RECOVERY?

A. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program makes funds available to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides assistance to eligible applicants to cover unpaid rent payments, future rent payments and utility costs that cannot be paid by the applicant due to the COVID-19 hardships.

Q. How can I qualify for this program?

A. You must be a renter living in Suburban Cook County and have a COVID-related financial emergency that occurred after March 13, 2020. Your income cannot exceed 80% AMI based on a number of people in the household. You must have qualified for unemployment, experienced a reduction in household income or demonstrated a risk of homelessness or housing instability. A valid lease agreement and utility bill will be required.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Income	\$51,000	\$58,250	\$65,550	\$72,800	\$78,650	\$84,450	\$90,300	\$96,100

Q. Is the COVID-19 Recovery available for homeowners looking for mortgage assistance?

A. No. Mortgage payments are not eligible. However, Cook County homeowners looking of COVID-19 mortgage assistance can refer to www.findhelp.org and <https://covid.citybureau.org/en/> to find mortgage assistance resources.

Q. What is the funding availability for the COVID-19 Recovery Program?

A. The maximum funding considered for rental assistance will be 12 months of unpaid rent and 3 months forward, if funding is available. The maximum funding considered for utility assistance will cover up to 12 months of past due payments. The tenant will need to select one utility between ComEd or Nicor Gas. Water bills are not covered for this program.

Q. How does the COVID-19 Recovery Program work?

A. The tenant, landlord or tenant representative can apply when the application opens. The tenant and landlord can apply on their own with no or minimal support. Once they apply the tenant and landlord will be notified and asked to complete their portion of the application. I.e. tenant applies; landlord completes their portion of application. Landlord applies; tenant completes their portion of the application. For tenants without access to technology, email address, or other barriers to access, a tenant representative can assist the tenant to complete the application. A community organization representative is also available to assist the tenant with completion of the application. The application will have the same questions and requirements as the tenant and landlord.

Q. Does the COVID-19 Recovery Program cover utility assistance only?

A. No. You must apply for the rental assistance to receive the utility assistance.

Q. How can I apply?

A. Applications open March 11, 2021 and will be accepted until April 2, 2021. Start the application process at www.cookscountyil.gov/recovery.

NOTE: Tenants are not eligible for rental assistance if they participate in Federal Public Housing, Project-Based Rental Assistance, or the Housing Choice Voucher Program

Q&A for Renters and Landlords about Other Assistance Programs

Q. What if I am a tenant or landlord in need of COVID-19 utility assistance only?

A. Cook County residents can utilize these utility programs for utility assistance.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – helps eligible households with home energy services. For more information, contact **LIHEAP Hotline** at **(877) 411-9276** or visit www.HelpIllinoisFamilies.com.

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) available for LIHEAP eligible households who are customers of one of the following utilities: Ameren Illinois, ComEd, Nicor Gas and Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas. Under PIPP, eligible households pay a percentage of their income; receive a monthly benefit towards their utility bill and, arrearage reductions for every on-time payment they make, if applicable. Contact LIHEAP Hotline at **(877) 411-9276** or visit www.HelpIllinoisFamilies.com.

Special Residential Hardship Program - Provides grants of up to \$500 towards the arrearage, once every two years, for eligible residential customers with household incomes up to 250% of the federal poverty level. Contact **LIHEAP Hotline** at **(877) 411-9276** or visit www.HelpIllinoisFamilies.com.

ComEd Helps Active/Veteran Military Personnel (CHAMP) - Assists activated and deployed members of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, Reserves and honorably discharged veterans with paying their electric bills. Apply online at: www.ComEd.com/CARE

ComEd Helping Hand - Helping Hand provides grants up to \$300 towards to arrearages for customers who express financial hardship due to COVID-19. For more information call **(800) 334-7661**. If the customer is low-income (LICA), email HelpingHand@exeloncorp.com. If not LICA, customer must submit income documentation through verification link at ComEd.com/HelpingHand.

Small Business Assistance - Provides eligible small business customers with grants up to \$1000 towards the 30% down payment to establish a 6 month installment payment agreement or 30% of the amount to restore service. For more information, contact ComEd at **(877) 426-6331**.