

RENTERS, GET READY

Do you need help paying your rent or utilities?

RentHelpMN is coming soon and may be able to help. Here's how to get ready to apply.

Am I eligible?

- Are you a renter living in Minnesota?
- Are you qualified for unemployment insurance? OR, Have you been negatively impacted by COVID-19 in any way?
- Do you know the annual income for all adults in your household? (Must meet income limits, see below)
- Do you have past-due rent?

If you answered yes to all four questions, you will be eligible to apply when the program opens.

What do I need to apply?

Gather these documents ahead of time to make it easier to complete your application. You can upload cell phone pictures or scanned copies, or call 211 if you need assistance.

- Your landlord's name, address and contact information** - We will need to contact your landlord to send payment and confirm it's your main address.
- Copy of your lease or rental agreement** - If you are not on a lease, a document from your landlord or the property owner showing the amount you pay and/or the amount you owe for rent. We can provide a form if needed.
- Past-due rent statement (or ledger)** - If you are behind on your rent, try to get a ledger or statement from your landlord showing how much and for which months you still owe rent.
- A list of who lives in your household** - This program includes everyone living there the day you apply. In addition to adults and children in a family, that may include non-custodial children, people not on the lease, family members you care for in your home, unborn children and others living with you now. Unrelated adults (roommates) who live together are considered a household. Note that all adults in the household must share their income information.
- Income Documentation:**
 - 2020 Taxable Income (1040s, 1099s or W2s)
 - Pay Stubs or other payment verification (two months)
- A form of identification for the head of household** - We will need to confirm that you are who you say you are with state-issued, Tribal or other international identification.

Call 211 if you do not have the required income documentation.

What about my utility bills?

To request help with utility bills or other expenses, have these ready.

- A utility bill (tenant-paid gas, electric, heat, energy, water or sewer, or other expenses)
- A past-due notice from a utility company

What costs will be covered?

- **RentHelpMN** will help with rent and utility bills for up to 15 months starting from April 1, 2020, with a possible extension based on need. **RentHelpMN** can cover past-due electricity, gas, home energy services, water, sewer and trash removal but does not cover phone or internet services.

Can I apply if I have received other COVID-related rental assistance?

- Applicants who have received other COVID-related rental assistance are still eligible for the **RentHelpMN** program. **RentHelpMN** cannot cover rent or utilities already paid by another program.

How do I find out if my income qualifies?

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

Income eligibility is based on 80% of the median income in your area, and it varies by county and number of people in the household. For example, a 1-person household would qualify with an income below \$40,700 if they live in Aitkin County, or below \$54,950 if they live in the Metro Twin Cities. A 4-person household would qualify with an income below \$58,100 in Aitkin County or below \$78,500 in the Metro.

Your income is likely to qualify if you receive other benefits available only to low-income Minnesotans such as Food Stamps (SNAP), MFIP and GA, or if you live in affordable housing and your income has not increased significantly since you qualified.

- **2020 Taxable Income:** If all the adults (18+) in the household have filed taxes for 2020, either together or individually, all you need are the 1040 Forms. If you have earning statements for 2020 such as W-2s, 1099s, or other tax forms but have not filed yet, have those ready.
- **Pay Stubs:** You can use two months of pay stubs or other pay documents to show your income. Pay stubs might be particularly helpful if someone has moved out recently and reduced your family income, or if you have seen a dramatic drop in your income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Self-Certification:** In limited circumstances you may be able to self-certify. This might be an option for young adults in the house with no work history, for adults who have received income only in cash, or cases where a place of employment has closed, and you cannot get documentation. If you have a case worker who knows your family's income situation, we may be able to accept a letter from them.

If you do not have these documents, you may still be able to apply. Call 211 for assistance.



RentHelpMN is coming soon. Please check renthelpmn.org or call **211** for updated information.