



# News Release

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## Emergency Rental Assistance Applications to Reopen March 1

Applications can be found here: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/erap/index.php>

Charleston County citizens struggling to make rent and utility payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for aid. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is accepting applications from renters and landlords after being suspended in October. Additional funding has been made available, and applications can be found here: <https://charlestoncounty.org/erap/index.php>.

Beginning March 1, residents needing help to fill out the application can call 855-452-5374 Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Charleston County is also teaming up with the [Charleston County Public Library](#) to provide technology and staff to assist members of the community in applying for the program. Those seeking internet access or need to use a computer may visit any [open library location](#) with the exception of the Village Library branch. Starting on March 1, those seeking one-on-one assistance in the application process should call and make an appointment at their closest library location. Please note, library staff will only be able to provide technical support and cannot determine eligibility or approval of applications.

There will also be Spanish speaking staff and appointments available at:

- [John L. Dart Library](#)
- [Folly Beach Library](#)
- [Hurd/St. Andrews Library](#)
- [Otranto Road Library](#)
- [Poe/Sullivan's Island Library](#)
- [St. Paul's/Hollywood Library](#)
- [Wando Mount Pleasant Library](#)

Through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Charleston County Community Development has assisted about 3,000 renters, 600 landlords, and provided about 19 million dollars in assistance.

The funding is part of \$25 billion allocated through the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act to help states and local governments with populations over 200,000 establish ERAP programs. Funding will go to help low-income renter households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and where one or more household members qualify for unemployment benefits or have experienced financial hardship due, directly, or indirectly, to the pandemic. The priority will be to cover housing-related payments that are past due. Applications will be accepted from either the renter or a landlord on behalf of a renter meeting eligibility requirements.

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For information on Charleston County Government news and services, visit our website at [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org).



- Prepared by the Public Information Office -