

# Tips for CCR&RS: What to Know About Helping Renters

Need help paying rent? Congress just approved \$25 billion for rental assistance so local and state governments can provide help to people struggling to pay rent. Check for [programs in your area](#).

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs this year because of COVID-19 and many are at a growing risk of eviction and homelessness. An October 2020 survey found 40 percent of children of living in rental households aren't getting enough to eat or aren't caught up on rent or both. African American and Hispanic families are disproportionately represented among those with [low wage jobs, job loss, evictions, and homelessness](#).

Homelessness during COVID-19 is even riskier than normal because homeless living conditions are usually crowded and place people at higher risk of infection. So, keeping families in their homes is more important now than ever. There are programs that can help families at risk of eviction.

**Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) and other child care professionals can help families who are facing housing instability by connecting them with key programs and resources in their area.**

## How You Can Help

1. Review the information below.
2. Customize the information with local contacts. Use the directories provided (links) to find local contacts.
3. Share locally customized information with families and community partners who work with families.

## National Eviction Moratorium

There is a national eviction ban through March 31, 2021, which means that until that date - renters cannot be evicted for nonpayment for reasons due to COVID-19. [Fact sheets](#) are available in many languages.

To be eligible for this protection, renters:

- Must have used best efforts to look for rental assistance
- Did not earn more than \$99,000 in 2020 (or no more than \$198,000 if a joint filer)

- Can't pay full rent because of substantial loss of household income, loss of hours of work or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary medical expenses
- Must be paying as much rent on a timely basis as you can
- If evicted, would likely become homeless and have to live in a shelter or some other crowded place

It is important to remember:

- Renters must give their landlord a signed declaration stating they meet the eligibility conditions. The declaration form is available in [English](#) and many [other languages](#).
- Each adult listed on the rental lease or contract needs to sign a declaration form.
- Once the moratorium is over – renters will have to pay all the rent they owe (unless other arrangements can be made with the landlord) and landlords can charge late fees.
- Renters can still be evicted for other reasons like violating the rules of the apartment complex where they live.

## State and Local Eviction Moratoriums

Some state and local governments are providing additional eviction and rental protections. Check your state and local government web pages for updated information or contact [Legal Aid](#) in your area.

## What to Do If Landlord Is Threatening Eviction

If a landlord is threatening eviction even though a renter qualifies and submitted the proper form for the eviction moratorium, renters can contact [Legal Aid](#) or a lawyer in their area.

## Help with Immediate Shelter or Emergency Housing

If a family needs immediate shelter or emergency housing, they should contact a person in their community who can help. Use the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's [web tool](#) to help you identify someone who can help in your community.

## Help with Child Care

If you are experiencing homelessness, your family is eligible for special help with child care, for example, financial assistance and prioritization for services. A quality child care program can support your child's health, development, and learning. For help with child care, contact your [local Child Care and Referral Agency](#).

If you have school-age children, the [Homeless Education Liaison](#) in your local school district can also be a great resource for connecting with special supports for your children and family.

## More Information

[Legal help](#) in your area on rent and eviction protections.

FAQ from the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#).

[Information](#) from Child Care Aware® of America about how child care professionals can support children and families experiencing homelessness.

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