

TIPS FOR CCR&RS:

What to Know About Helping Renters & Those Experiencing Homelessness

Need help paying rent? Congress has approved over \$45 billion for rental assistance so local and state governments can help people struggling to pay rent. Find [programs in your area](#).

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs because of COVID-19 and many are at a growing risk of eviction and homelessness. Approximately [1 in 4 renters](#) with children are struggling to pay rent. 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. Therefore, keeping families in their homes is more important now than ever. There are programs that can help families at risk of eviction. However, without community outreach efforts, many families struggling to pay rent will not benefit from these programs.

Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (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.
3. Share locally customized information with families and community partners who work with families.

Financial Assistance

Financial assistance programs are available to help families struggling to pay rent. Local and state governments can provide help. Find responses to [frequently asked questions](#) about these programs.

As a CCR&R you can encourage families to apply for these programs. Eligibility requirements are described below.

1. One or more members of your household has:
 - Qualified for unemployment benefits
 - Experienced a reduction in household income
 - Owed large expenses, OR
 - Had other financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic
2. Your household income is below a certain amount, based on where you live
3. At least one member of your household is experiencing housing instability, which means they are at risk of becoming homeless or would have trouble finding a stable place to live

It is important to remember:

- Renters must give their landlord a signed declaration stating they meet the eligibility conditions. A declaration form is available in [English](#) and many [other languages](#).

State and Local Eviction Moratoriums

Some state and local governments may be providing 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, 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-aged 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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