

Emergency Rental Assistance



Assisting Households Impacted by COVID-19

About the Program

The Aleutian Housing Authority (AHA) is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Region of Alaska. AHA received Emergency Rental Assistance money from the U.S. Department of Treasury, on behalf of our partner Tribes, to provide the payment of rent and utilities (including past due amounts) for eligible households who have disproportionately suffered from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assistance under this program is available to shareholders of the Aleut Corporation or enrolled members of one of our regional Tribes residing nationwide; Native Americans and Alaska Natives residing in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Region; and other residents of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Region. This assistance can only be provided to those households who have not yet received any similar assistance from any other source.

Applications will be accepted until September 15th, 2021. The application period may be extended, depending on available funds. Completed applications will be pooled and prioritized for selection. **To be considered in the first application pool, your completed application and all required information must be received by AHA no later than, Wednesday, September 15th, 2021.** First pool payments are scheduled to be made in October of 2021. **Be sure to gather and submit ALL required documents. Failure to do so will delay processing of your application. Funding is not guaranteed, and all documentation will be verified to determine eligibility.**

AHA will prioritize applications in the following order:

1. Households whose income does not exceed 50% of area median income.
2. Households with a member who is and has been unemployed for the past 90 days.

AHA will give preference to applicants accordingly:

1. Aleut Corporation Shareholders or Enrolled Members of one of the following Regional Tribes: *Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, Native Village of Akutan, Native Village of Atka, Native Village of Belkofski, Native Village of False Pass, Native Village of Nelson Lagoon, Native Village of Nikolski, Pauloff Harbor Village, Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, Pribilof Islands Aleut Community of St. George, Pribilof Islands Aleut Community of St. Paul, or Native Village of Unga*
2. Other Native American or Alaska Native Households residing AHA's service area
3. Non-Native households, residing AHA's service area

How do I get a copy of AHA's Application?

Do you have access to the internet?

- If so, please visit our website at: www.ahaak.org.
- You can also request a copy by sending an email to: era@ahaak.org.

No internet access? No problem!

AHA will be working with our local Tribal partners to ensure that applications are readily available. Please contact one of our team members and they will be able to assist you.

How do I submit my application?

Completed applications, including all required documentation, can be submitted using one of the following methods:

Email: era@ahaak.org **Fax:** 1-833-899-8155

Mail: Aleutian Housing Authority / ERA Program
520 E 32nd Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99503

How do I know if I am eligible?

To be eligible, you must be obligated to pay rent and must have a rental agreement. Additionally:

1. **You or a member of your household meets at least one of the following criteria:**
 - » Qualifies for or is currently receiving unemployment benefits.
 - » Has been or is currently unemployed.
 - » Has lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - » Has incurred significant costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - » Has directly or indirectly experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. **You or members of your household can demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing instability. To do so, at least one of the following statements must be true:**
 - » Has received a rental eviction notice.
 - » Has received past-due rent or utility notice(s).
 - » Is at an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 due to overcrowding.
 - » Is delaying the purchase of essential goods/services to pay rent or utilities.
 - » Is relying on credit cards or payday lenders to pay for rent or utilities.
 - » Is depleting savings rather than wages to pay for rent or utilities.
3. **Your household income is at or below 80 percent of the area median income (based on household size and the community you live in).**
 - Please visit: https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2020/select_Geography.odn or contact a member of our team to see if your household meets this requirement.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? Need help completing an application?

Help is just a phone call away! This is a stressful time and we want this process to be as easy as possible. Our team is here to assist you with any questions or concerns that you may have. If you need assistance completing the application, have questions regarding eligibility, or would like to discuss the options for submitting an application, please don't hesitate to call.

Melissa Robbins
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Frequently Asked Questions



If approved, will I receive the money directly?

No. Payments will be directed to landlords and utility providers.

Can the assistance be used to pay for expenses other than rent and utilities?

No. Funds can only be used for rent and utility assistance.

Can the assistance be used to pay rent owed and/or unpaid utility bills?

Yes. Funds will be used to first pay unpaid rent and utility bills. However, funds cannot be applied to past rent or utility bills that pre-date March 13, 2020.

I do not owe back rent or utility payments, can I still apply for future assistance?

Yes, AHA provides up to 12 months of future rent and utility relief to eligible applicants.

If I qualify, how long will I be eligible to receive assistance?

The program allows for up to 12 months of financial assistance, with the possibility of extended assistance for an additional three months. All past-due rent and utilities back to March 13, 2020 will be paid first with remaining funds available for prospective (future) assistance. Funding will be available at least through September 30, 2021.

If I don't need help making rent payments, can I still apply for help with unpaid utility bills?

Yes. Assistance from this program can be used to help you catch up on unpaid utility bills.

Do I have to have been impacted by COVID-19 to be eligible for this program?

Yes. You must demonstrate negative economic or financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the coronavirus outbreak.

I'm currently employed and have income. Am I still eligible to apply?

Yes. Funds will be available to renters with household incomes of no more than 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). Area Median Income (AMI) is calculated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) using data from federal entities such as the IRS. To qualify for Emergency Rental Assistance:

- Your 2020 annual income for all members of your household — including all wages, tips, etc.— must have been at or below the 80% community Area Median Income (AMI); OR
- Your 2021 monthly income for all members of your household — including all wages, tips, etc. — must currently be at or below the 80% community Area Median Income (AMI).

I own my home. Does this program provide mortgage relief, or help with utilities for homeowners?

The current program only assists renters, but there may be changes or additional programs in the future.

How will my landlord know if I applied?

Please notify your landlord that you are applying for assistance under this program. Let your Landlord know they will be contacted by AHA inviting them to participate and submit required information.

I am a landlord, can I apply on behalf of my tenants?

Landlords can help their tenants successfully secure assistance by providing needed information as part of their eligibility process.

If your tenants are struggling to pay rent or utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please let them know about this program and have them contact one of our team members for assistance.

What if I didn't live in my current rental when COVID-19 started?

You can still apply for assistance with rent and/or utility bills. There is no requirement for a specific length of residency in your current rental property.

Please don't hesitate to contact a member of our team if you have any other questions.

DON'T DELAY APPLY TODAY