



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RentHelpMN application deadline is January 28 Need for emergency assistance has surged in January

[SAINT PAUL, January 25, 2022] Minnesota Housing announced on Tuesday that the statewide RentHelpMN COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance program is approaching the limit of its available funding and will close to new applications on Friday, January 28 at 9:00 p.m. All applications for overdue rent and utilities must be submitted by Friday at 9:00 p.m. for consideration.

Renters who are behind on rent may apply for up to 18 months of rent and utilities, which can include an additional month of upcoming rent, subject to available resources.

Submitted applications received before the deadline will continue to be processed after the deadline. Applications in “Incomplete” status will be withdrawn. Renters who have started or submitted an application who have online access can check their status by logging in to their account at apply.renthelpmn.org.

In total, the program will distribute an estimated \$450 million to help Minnesotans who have been impacted by COVID-19 pay their rent and other housing costs. As of January 20, the state has made more than 77,350 payments, helping more than 46,000 households catch up on their housing costs. Pending applications also provide renters with protection from eviction while their claims are being processed.

Demand for the rental assistance is the highest it’s been since the program opened in April 2021. Applications are coming in faster in January 2022 than any previous month, and the amount of assistance requested is increasing.

“We realize the decision to close the program will affect many households that continue to struggle to make rent,” said Minnesota Commissioner Jennifer Leimaile Ho. **“Unfortunately, the need for help is greater than the funds available.”**

Earlier this month, the state reduced the number of future months of rent paid in an effort to conserve funds.

Minnesota has requested additional funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to meet the ongoing need for rental assistance, but Ho says she doesn't expect Minnesota will receive further funds.

Minnesota is not alone among states with more need than dollars, Ho noted.

“The pandemic has lasted a lot longer than anyone could have predicted, and longer than the federal rental assistance program was designed to address,” said Ho. **“We know there are more renters who are hurting out there. It pains me to see this program come to an end, but unfortunately we knew it would end before all the need was met.”**

Renters who owe past-due rent from January 2022 or prior may still apply for the assistance until January 28 through the [RentHelpMN.org](https://renthelpmn.org) website. Both renters and property owners/managers participate in the application process. Payments are typically sent directly to utility companies and property owners.

Visit the [RentHelpMN Dashboard](#) for more information about who the program has served.

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