

## FACT SHEET

January 27, 2021

### Alaska's Emergency Rental Assistance

#### Program background:

The [FY2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act](#) passed by Congress and signed into law at year-end 2020 included \$25 billion for emergency housing assistance. Alaska's share includes distribution from the U.S. Department of Treasury through the Coronavirus Relief Fund to tribal housing authorities, the Municipality of Anchorage, and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

The request to spend the funding was submitted by Governor Dunleavy to the State of Alaska's Legislative Budget & Audit Committee. The committee acted on January 17, 2021 to authorize AHFC to expend up to \$200 million in federal funds consistent with the intent of the federal legislation.

This is the second time in 12 months that AHFC has been approached to administer federal funds for COVID-19 housing assistance. There are significant differences in what was authorized in summer 2020 and federal intent associated with emergency rental relief.

#### What's different?

The 2020 legislation allowed for an immediate response to those who lost income because of COVID-19. Funds were limited and the program was designed to allow all eligible Alaskans a chance to apply and receive up to \$1,200 of assistance payable to their landlord or mortgage servicer.

The **Treasury Department is still issuing guidance on eligible uses for the 2021 funds**; however, there are some things that are clear:

- The program is available only to renters meeting certain program criteria including being at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI), to be calculated after their COVID-19 hardship. Funds will be paid to landlords.
- Utilities are an eligible expenditure with funds to be paid to the utility.
- Renters who owe back rent because of loss of income due to COVID-19 will have their arrearages cured prior to issuance of current or future payments.
  - Qualifying renters can receive up to 12 months of assistance with the possibility of receiving an additional three months assistance.
- More personal information related to their COVID-19 financial hardship is required of applicants.
- Current program rules make homeowners ineligible for emergency housing assistance.

#### Key dates:

Dec. 21, 2020: COVID Relief and Response Act passed by the House and Senate

Dec. 27, 2020: COVID Relief and Response Act signed into law by President Trump

Jan. 18, 2021: Governor Dunleavy transmits and Alaska's Legislative Budget & Audit Committee authorizes AHFC to expend up to \$200 million in federal funds for emergency housing assistance.

Now: Alaskans can visit [alaskahousingrelief.org](http://alaskahousingrelief.org) to sign up for email notification for news about the program design including eligibility information, documentation required for proof of financial hardship, and notification of sign-up.

**Additional resources:** [U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Relief Program](#)

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