

# FACT SHEET

September 7, 2021

## ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (ALASKA HOUSING RENT RELIEF) OVERVIEW:

AHFC has distributed more than \$117 million and fully obligated its share of Emergency Rental Assistance that was made available to Alaska through its portion of the \$25 billion national allocation. AHFC is currently encouraging Alaskans experiencing hardship to check their eligibility for future assistance and apply for rent and utility relief Sept. 13-Oct. 1, 2021.

- **Application Timeframes**
  - ⇒ Eligibility Checker currently open.
  - ⇒ **Applications accepted Sept. 13 – Oct. 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. through [AlaskaHousingRelief.org](https://AlaskaHousingRelief.org) providing up to three months** of rent and utility relief
  - ⇒ Previous application window opened February-March 2021, offered up to 12 months or rent and/or utility relief to eligible Alaskans who meet federal requirements
  
- **Alaska Housing Rent Relief (as of Sept. 7, 2021)**

Nearly everyone in Alaska who applied for Alaska Housing Rent Relief and has provided the required documentation has had their past due rent and utilities paid.

  - ⇒ More than 1/3 of Alaska's renter households applied for assistance
  - ⇒ Serving more than 50,000 Alaska residents
  - ⇒ Serving more than 19,000 household renters
  - ⇒ Payment made directly to more than 7981 landlords and utility companies
  - ⇒ Offers a viable path for protecting vulnerable tenants from eviction
  
- **AHFC Payment Distribution**
  - ⇒ Initial payments addressed past due rent and utilities and included up to three months future rent, not to exceed 12 months total assistance.
    - After arrearages are addressed, future payments may be distributed in 90-day increments following confirmation of continued hardship and in accordance with the federal legislation.
    - More than 7,200 applications have already been recertified with a second round of payments distributed totaling \$25 million.
  - ⇒ Alaska Housing Rent Relief provides payments to landlords and utility companies on behalf of renters facing financial hardship due to the pandemic
  - ⇒ Based on current funding availability, Alaskans who apply from Sept. 13-Oct. 1 are eligible for up to three months of rent/utility relief.

## **ALASKA HOUSING RENT RELIEF ELGIBILITY:**

AHFC's online tool, available at [AlaskaHousingRelief.org](https://www.ahfc.us/blog/posts/alaska-housing-relief) allows applicants to check their eligibility in fewer than five minutes by answering a short set of simple questions related to their current housing situation and circumstances.

Applicants are required to provide a verifiable email address and phone number.

- **Minimum federal requirements**

- ⇒ At least one person per household must be directly or indirectly financially impacted by COVID-19
- ⇒ Demonstrated risk of housing instability or homelessness
- ⇒ At or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI) as determined by Housing & Urban Development (HUD):
  - In Anchorage, \$77,840 per year or \$6,487 per month
  - In Fairbanks, \$74,480 per year or \$6,206 per month
  - In Juneau, \$92,240 or \$7,686 per month
- ⇒ Households currently receiving Alaska Housing Rent Relief program funds are not eligible for overlapping assistance.

## **APPLICATION PROCESSING:**

When the U.S. Supreme Court ended the moratorium on evictions<sup>1</sup>, AHFC had already approved funding for all eligible applicants or provided those with commitment letters signed by AHFC's CEO/Executive Director that could be presented to their landlord or the court.

- **Application processing prioritization**

- ⇒ Applicants with significantly lower income (below 50% area median income)
- ⇒ Applicants reporting 90+ days of unemployment at the time of application

## **ALASKANS SERVED (as of Sept. 7, 2021):**

- Applications represent more than one-third of Alaska renters, with the average household assistance, including rent and utility relief, totaling \$5,544
- For statewide applicants determined eligible for program participation based on income, the top three racial identities reported are White (37%) followed by American Indian or Alaska Native (16.85%), "Multiple Ethnic Identities Selected" (12.68%). Eleven percent of participants either declined or did not respond to the question.

## **PARTNERSHIPS:**

AHFC's relationships with key statewide agencies, municipal representatives and nonprofit organizations has provided the opportunity to work collaboratively to assist Alaska communities in need. Funding partners include [Regional housing authorities](#) representing 148 Alaska Native tribes

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<sup>1</sup> AHFC Blog Post, "Guidance on Rental Evictions as Moratorium Ends," <https://www.ahfc.us/blog/posts/guidance-on-rental-evictions-as-moratorium-ends>

and [Municipality of Anchorage](#); Nonprofit processing partners include [Catholic Social Services](#), [Love in Action](#), [Love INC](#), [Valley Charities](#) and Brother Francis Shelter Kodiak.

## HOW IS ALASKA DOING?<sup>2</sup>

A recent [Wall Street Journal](#) report showed that Alaska, via Alaska Housing Rent Relief, is among the top five states in the country in distributing funds directly to landlords and utility companies. Alaska is one of the few states to launch and publish a weekly online program update with up-to-date program progress including the number of applications received and the total funds distributed at [AlaskaHousingRelief.org](#).

## FUNDING HISTORY AND KEY DATES:

- Dec. 2020: COVID Relief and Response Act (CRSSSA) passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by President

Trump, including \$200 million for Alaska's emergency rental assistance. Additional assistance was provided to Alaska's tribes.

- March 2021: American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) passed by the House and Senate and signed into law by President Biden, including \$152 million for Alaska's emergency rental assistance allocated to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and the Municipality of Anchorage.

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program, including reporting, <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/emergency-rental-assistance-program>