

Rural Rental Insecurity Program

COVID-19 rental relief • Funding Notice • Round 1

May 14, 2020

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) secured grant funding to finance emergency rental assistance programs established in response to the unforeseen increase in renters' financial hardship caused by COVID-19.

It is RCAC's intent to ensure that renters benefit from this funding quickly and efficiently.

Due: June 5, 2020

Deadline may be extended if we receive insufficient applications

There may be future funding rounds with different criteria, including geography. RCAC generally serves the 13 western States and the Pacific Islands.

Applicants must be either a Housing Authority, Tribal Housing Authority, local government or Community Action (CAP) Agency.

States to be served in this round:

- Hawaii, Nevada, Washington, California, Alaska and Montana
- No more than two grants per state in this round

This round will fund up to five agencies at \$16,000 per applicant.

No administrative or other costs are allowed under this funding, only rental assistance funds.

Grantees must be low-risk and have no significant audit findings and acceptable financial statements.

Applicants must complete and submit a short application form with attachments.

Agencies awarded funds will be required to execute a grant agreement.

RCAC intends to award funds to applicants that meet the following criteria:

- Areas with high unemployment and/or
- Areas with a high percentage of very low-income, severely cost-burdened households

To disburse funds quickly, **applicants must have an existing emergency rental assistance program** to provide for, or be modified to provide for:

- Renters below 50 percent of Area Median Income (AMI)
- Must not be limited to applicant-owned/operated properties
- Payments either to landlords or jointly to landlords and tenants
- Assistance per renter will be limited to \$500 per household per month. Exceptions may be requested with a justification.

Agencies will report activity and request reimbursement quarterly (9/30, 12/31). The funds will be fully disbursed by 12/31/20.

Questions?

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A generous grant from The Bank of America Foundation enables RCAC to provide this round of funding.

RCAC Rural Rental Insecurity Program • COVID19 rental relief funding application

Organization name: _____

Type of Organization: Housing Authority Local Government Tribal Housing Authority CAP/CAA

Address: _____

List Service Area Counties: _____

Proposed Counties to be Served: _____

Are some/all of communities to be served rural? (defined as currently eligible for USDA Section 515) Yes No

See URL: <https://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do?pageAction=mfhc>

Please attach the following:

1. Organizational documents (authorizing e.g. Articles of Incorporation and operating e.g. Bylaws)
2. Two most recent independent audits
3. Most recent financial statements
4. One page narrative answering the following questions:
 - a. Describe your current emergency rental assistance program guidelines and purpose
 - b. Describe your current emergency rental assistance income certification procedures
 - c. Is the rural county to be served experiencing high rate of unemployment? Describe.
 - d. Is your county experiencing severe rent burden (>50% of income toward rent) for very low-income households? Describe.
 - e. \$500 rent cap request justification (see below)

Grant amount: \$16,000, 100% for rental assistance only, no administrative or other costs

Capped at \$500/household/month (may request exception, attach hardship justification)

Renters are responsible for monthly rent up to 30% of current certified household income level. Grant funds to make up the remainder of rent, subject to the \$500 cap.

Payments to be made either to landlord directly or to tenant and landlord jointly

May not limit participation to applicant-owned and/or operated units (must allow for third party participation)

Describe marketing effort proposed

Reporting/billing quarterly including:

- *HH size (# of household members)*
- *HH Income level as a % of area (County) median income for households*
- *Must certify income through pay stubs or other accepted methodology*
- *Name and address of household (will be kept confidential)*
- *Brief description of why household requires emergency assistance*

Authorized signature _____ **Date** _____