

# 2021 Eviction Prevention

September 2021



As COVID-19 continues to impact housing stability and affordability, renters across Oregon have been hit especially hard. Oregon's statewide eviction moratorium expired on June 30<sup>th</sup> and the Supreme Court dealt a blow to eviction protections for renters nationwide, striking down the CDC eviction moratorium and leaving many renters without protections. OHCS is committed to helping Oregonians stay in their homes and ensuring an equitable recovery for all. Below are tools and resources available to help protect Oregonians from eviction.

## Apply for Rental Assistance

The Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP) can help tenants with back rent, as well as up to three months of forward rent and assistance with utilities. Tenants can apply for the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program online at [OregonRentalAssistance.org](https://oregonrentalassistance.org) or apply for rental assistance through a local program:

- [Clackamas County Emergency Rental Assistance](#)
- [Emergency Rent Relief of Lane County](#)
- [Marion County Emergency Rental Assistance](#)
- [Multnomah County Emergency Rental Assistance](#)
- [Washington County Emergency Rental Assistance](#)

If you need help filling out your OERAP application, contact us through the application chat, our staff are on hand to help. If you need additional assistance, reach out to your local program administrator.

## Use Oregon's Safe Harbor Period

Under [SB 278](#) (2021) tenants who have applied for rental assistance through the [Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) or other rental assistance programs like the ones listed above, but have not yet received assistance, enter a 60-day "safe harbor" period when they give proof of application to their landlord. This period is 90 days in Multnomah and unincorporated communities of Washington County. The safe harbor period begins once the letter is given to their landlord preventing eviction proceedings from moving forward.

## Extended Repayment Deadline (Rent Due April 2020 – June 2021)

With passage of [SB 282 \(2021\)](#), the repayment period for residential rent arrearages accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic is extended until February 28th, 2022. Renters will not face eviction due to back rent owed between April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

## 2-1-1

Tenants can apply individually for past, current, and future rent assistance by calling 2-1-1, visiting [www.211info.org](http://www.211info.org), or going to [www.oregonrentalassistance.org](http://www.oregonrentalassistance.org). 2-1-1 can also provide information on resources for utility bills, legal aid, and other local sources of assistance.

## Legal Aid

The [Oregon Law Center](#)'s **Eviction Defense Project** is available to assist tenants who are in need of legal aid after receiving a court summons. Call 888-585-9638 or email at [evictiondefense@oregonlawcenter.org](mailto:evictiondefense@oregonlawcenter.org) to seek legal assistance.

## Additional Rental Assistance Resources

Partnership with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Community-Based Organizations: OHCS has signed an agreement for \$4 million to help fund OHA's network of [Community Based Organizations](#) with OHA to respond to the deep inequities with in our communities.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DVSA) Program Investment: OHCS is also partnering with the [Department of Justice Crime Victim and Survivor Services Division](#) (CVSSD) to provide \$2 million housing stability service resources to the network of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault providers across Oregon. We seek to prioritize providers who serve Tribal communities and Culturally Specific Organizations. This investment will address the disparate impact that the pandemic has had on [women and women-led households](#), as well as the [alarming increase in reports of domestic violence nationwide and locally](#).

## Coming Soon

OHCS will soon roll out \$12.5 million in Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Capacity Building funds. These resources are from the Stability Services dollars that are part of the second wave of Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ERA2) within the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and a \$3 million allocation from the Oregon Legislature. By braiding state and federal resources and building out a package of critical services, OHCS is taking proactive steps to ensure thousands of households on the brink of eviction have the information and resources they need to persevere. The following categories of services will be funded:

- Outreach and application assistance for OERAP rental assistance needs
- Marketing and communications to rural communities, communities of color and immigrants and refugees on available resources
- Fair Housing counseling and education initiatives statewide
- Legal services to prevent eviction and support specific populations, such as immigrants and refugees, with unique legal challenges
- Tenant education and outreach provided by community-based organizations
- Health and housing investments to ensure that our public health responses and housing services responses are deeply entwined and connected Investments in tenant education curricula in multiple languages, available online