

Dear Legislators,

Please support assistance for renters!

Evictions for nonpayment have skyrocketed across the state while there is a backlog of rent assistance and the state rent assistance has been shut down due to overwhelming need. Those evictions are both tragic and preventable and as your constituent I am calling on you to take swift action during the special session on December 13th.

Thousands and thousands of renting households have been waiting for rent assistance for two months, three months, or longer and based on application data we know BIPOC Oregonians are disproportionately affected.

Please listen to the voices of Oregon renters:

“I live in fear we’ll end up living in our car this winter. My family had just enough to get by before my workplace shut down. We didn’t have any cushion for what happened. When I was suddenly out of work I had to borrow money and put groceries on a credit card. Jobs are back now but my rent is more than half my income and now I have debt I didn’t plan for. I applied for rent assistance and if it doesn’t come soon we will be evicted and have to somehow come up with first and last months’ rent and a security deposit. How is that even possible for families like ours? We need the state to keep the promise it made.”

SB 278 passed with almost unanimous support with a commitment that no one who has applied for assistance will lose their home and that help would be there when they need it. We need lawmakers to act so that the promise isn’t broken.

Please support legislature that:

- Ensures no tenant who has applied for assistance is evicted while their application is being processed. The safe harbor timelines must be extended until the rent is paid, including new applications.
- Expands the guarantee fund to provide reimbursement for landlords in the rare occasion that a tenant’s application is denied or closed without payment.
- Allocates more money to state and local agencies to continue the state’s commitment to ensure low-income households don’t lose their homes during this time of economic upheaval.

Oregonians are counting on you.

Thanks,
Douglas Detrick