Program Overview

August 19, 2021
About the Program

• $352 million in federal assistance available (through two rounds of funding)

• Can be used to pay rent arrearages, forward facing rent, utility arrearages and certain other housing expenses

• Applicants can receive up to 18 months of rent and utility assistance
Eligibility Criteria

• Income Qualified
  • At or below 80% Area Median Income
    (about $69,200 for a family of four in most parts of the State)

• COVID Impact
  • Qualified for unemployment or experienced financial hardship due to COVID

• Risk of housing instability or homelessness
  • Including overdue rent, utility bill or an eviction notice
Available Assistance

• Program may be used to pay:
  • Rent arrears
  • Forward facing rent
  • Utility arrears
  • Forward facing $50 Internet stipend

• Utility costs include electricity, gas, water, trash removal, and energy costs, such as fuel oil

• Applicants can receive up to 18 months of rent, utility and broadband assistance
Accessing RentReliefRI Resources

• Webpage: www.RentReliefRI.com

• Tenants and landlords apply for assistance through one user-friendly website portal

• Additional program support services including:
  • Call Center- 1-855-608-8756
  • In-person assistance for people submitting applications
  • Targeted assistance for tenants in the eviction process
  • Broad outreach campaign to reach at-risk populations
Documents to be Ready With

Tenants:

• **Proof of residency** (ex; bank statement, utility bill, driver’s license)

• **Proof of income** (ex; wage statements, unemployment letter, 2020 tax return)

• **Signed copy of your lease agreement or documentation showing tenancy**
  (a pattern of rent payment, utility bill)

• **Documentation demonstrating your rental/utility arrearage**
  (ex; past due utility bill, eviction notice, 5-day demand letter, communication from landlord)

*If you have received a notice from the court for an eviction proceeding against you, please have that documentation available.

**Even if you do not have these documents, you may still be able to qualify for assistance. Please call 1-855-608-8756 or reach out to one of our partners for help completing the application.*
Documents to be Ready With

**Property Manager/Landlord:**

- W9 Form
- **EIN or SSN Verification**
  (ex; tax filing, social security card)
- **Rent arrearage documentation**
  (ex; ledger, past due notice)
- **Proof of property ownership**
  (ex; mortgage statement, real estate tax bill, water bill)
- **Tenant contact information**
  (ex; cell phone, email address)
Partner Outreach

- Outreach and informational materials available:
  - RentReliefRI one-pager
  - Community Engagement Toolkit
  - FAQs
  - How to Apply
  - Facebook page
Current Statistics as of 8/19/2021

- Accounts Created: 8,874
- Incomplete Applications: 5,118
- Submitted Applications: 3,756
- Total Approved Applications: 1,971
- Approved: $14,096,052
Current Statistics as of 8/19/2021

Approved Assistance by Category

- Approved Past Rent Amount: $8,634,245
- Approved Future Rent Amount: $4,053,162
- Approved Utility Amount: $1,112,640
- Approved Other Expenses Amount: $274,808
- Approved Security Deposit Amount: $17,967
Current Statistics as of 8/19/2021

Households Assisted by AMI
- AMI Group: 50% to 80%
  - Approved: 276
- AMI Group: 30% to 50%
  - Approved: 540
- AMI Group: 30% and under
  - Approved: 1,153

Race of Approved Tenants
- White: 862
- Black or African American: 474
- Multiple or Other Race: 418
- Declined to Answer: 151
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 40
- Asian: 26

Ethnicity of Approved Tenants
- Not Hispanic or Latino: 1,250
- Hispanic or Latino: 533
- Declined to Answer: 188
Coming Soon - Homeowner Assistance Fund of RI

- $50 million to assist owner occupants of 1-4 unit properties
- Households earning up to 150% AMI are eligible (about $116,850 for a family of three in most parts of the state)
- Up to $50,000 for a maximum of 24 months of assistance
- Eligible expenses include:
  - Mortgage and utility arrearages
  - Ongoing mortgage assistance
  - Principle reduction
  - Other housing related costs like property taxes, condo fees, mortgage insurance, etc.