

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

August 11, 2020



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Emergency Rental Assistance Program

- City of Durham partnering with Durham County and Legal Aid of NC to use special Community Development Block (CDBG-CV) funding from federal CARES Act for emergency rental assistance
- CDBG is a flexible program primarily focused on serving low income people and communities.
 - CDBG can be used to fund emergency rental and utility assistance, with specific limitations: assistance can only be provided for up to 3 continuous months, and beneficiary must have income <80% of Area Median Income



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Reginald & Karen, Coordinated Entry is part of CoC and falls under the requirements of CoC regardless of funding?

Schnars, Matthew, 2/1/2019

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Partner Roles

- *City of Durham Community Development Department (CDD):* Providing \$1,077,601 in CDBG-CV for emergency rental and utility assistance and \$500,000 in City funding for eviction diversion legal assistance (existing contract)
- *Durham County Department of Social Services (DSS):* Program administrator for Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- *Legal Aid of NC (LANC):* Providing legal assistance to program participants under existing City contract, and providing additional intake for Emergency Rental Assistance Program



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Client Eligibility

- Must reside in the City of Durham
- Must be able to certify that their housing problems arise from income loss related to the COVID 19 pandemic (CDBG-CV requirement).
- At the time of housing crisis, must have a household income at or below 80% Area Median Income
- Must be receiving legal assistance with their housing situation from LANC, the Duke Civil Justice Clinic or another LANC approved legal provider.



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Program Benefits

- Up to three months (continuous) rental and utility assistance. The assistance may be prospective as well SCL1 as retrospective. Maximum benefit \$6,000 per household
- All assistance paid directly to landlord and/or utility provider; no payments to individuals
- At least 180 households expected to be served



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Intake and Referral Process

Tenants seeking assistance under this project can initiate rental assistance requests either through DSS or LANC.

Applicants whose initial contact is with DSS:

1. Receive a scheduled appointment to complete required intake assessment with a DSS Social Worker.
2. DSS Social Workers assists applicants with gathering all required documents to complete rental assistance request.
3. DSS Social Workers faxes or emails all documentation, along with the LANC referral form, to the LANC Central Intake Unit (CIU), to initiate the required legal representation process.
4. Once all requested documents along with the negotiated settlement agreement or legal intervention documentation received, DSS Social Worker processes funding request and provides a written or electronic notice to the client.
5. If the applicant fails to provide the requested documents within 20 business days, request will be denied and a written or electronic notice to the client. The applicant may re-apply for assistance.



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SCL1 I added the assistance may be prospective as well as retrospective on this slide

Sawyer, Contessa L., 8/3/2020

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Intake and Referral Process

Applicants whose initial contact is with LANC:

1. Legal staff complete required intake assessment and begin legal intervention with the client. Completed assessment, notes, and any supporting documents necessary to determine eligibility on file are forwarded to DSS for processing.
2. DSS Social Workers assist applicants with gathering all required documents needed to complete rental assistance request.
3. Negotiated settlement agreements or legal intervention documentation forwarded to DSS for each client.
4. Once all requested documents along with the negotiated settlement agreement or legal intervention documentation received, DSS Social Worker processes funding request and provides a written or electronic notice to the client.
5. If the applicant fails to provide the requested documents within 20 business days, the request will be denied and a written or electronic notice to the client. The applicant may re-apply for assistance.



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Questions?



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