

SD CARES RENTAL ASSISTANCE

WHAT IS SD CARES RENTAL ASSISTANCE?

The American Rescue Plan, passed in March of 2021, provides \$21.6 billion for states, territories, and local governments to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 crisis. South Dakota began to administer ERA funds through the South Dakota Housing Development Authority and partner agencies across the state on February 8, 2021. As of March 25, 2021, over 1,900 applications have been received and \$2 million disbursed. Assistance may include:

- Actual rent or utility amount due and payable
- Up to 12 months of assistance for both rent and utilities (ability for additional three months)
- Payment of arrears and prospective rent (up to three months at a time)
- Coverage of late fees and penalties
- There is no maximum assistance per month

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Applicants must be South Dakota residents and legally live in the United States.

To qualify for the assistance, at least one member of the household must be eligible for unemployment benefits or attest in writing that they have lost income or incurred significant expenses due to the pandemic.

Applicants may show evidence of financial hardship by reporting increased expenses due to healthcare costs, funeral expenses, purchases of PPE (personal protective equipment), childcare costs, internet access for remote learning, and/or alternative transportation costs.

Applicants must demonstrate a risk of homelessness, which may include a past due rent or utility notice. Past due rent or utilities must have incurred after March 13, 2020.

Applicant's income level for 2020 cannot exceed 80% of the median income of the county in which the applicant resides.

Applicants who currently receive rental assistance through another state or federal program are eligible for assistance with the tenant paid portion of rent.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Applicants must have a valid email and phone number for themselves. The name of their employer and landlord must be included in the application.

Applications and county income criteria are online at the South Dakota Housing Development and Authority website: <https://www.sdhda.org/social-programs/cares-act-housing-assistance-program/cares-act-housing-assistance-program-2>.

The CDC's residential eviction moratorium is in effect until June 30, 2021, however applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. The assistance is temporary and is set to expire by September of 2022.

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

Partner Agencies assist applicants in determining eligibility and submitting applications:

- 211 Helpline Center
- Codington County Welfare
- Lutheran Social Services
- Grow South Dakota
- Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership
- Lakota Funds
- Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial
- NeighborWorks Dakota Home Resources
- Pennington County Health & Human Services
- Rural Office of Community Services, Inc.
- Western SD Community Action



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