

# HOUSTON-HARRIS COUNTY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Administered by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and BakerRipley



## Help is on the way for renters in Houston and Harris County!

*The City of Houston and Harris County are working together to provide \$159 million in rent and utilities assistance to families who are at risk of losing their homes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds will be distributed by BakerRipley and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.*

### How does the program work?

Renters can apply for help in paying rent that's past due, as well as two months of current and future rent to help them get back on their feet. The rent will be paid to landlords who enroll their property in the program. Past due rent can go as far back as April 2020. Additional assistance is available for past-due utility bills (electricity, gas and water). If a renter's landlord doesn't choose to participate, help could still be available through a direct payment to the renter.

### Who is eligible?

Any renter living in Houston or Harris County can apply if they have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; are experiencing housing instability; and have a household income at or below 80% of the HUD Area Median Family Income. Eligibility information is available on the website [HoustonHarrisHelp.org](http://HoustonHarrisHelp.org).

### How can renters apply?

Renters will apply through one website: [HoustonHarrisHelp.org](http://HoustonHarrisHelp.org), starting February 25. After the application is submitted, it will be assigned to either Catholic Charities or BakerRipley for processing. To make the experience as smooth as possible, a group of community agencies will serve as navigators, helping families complete their applications. The list of navigator agencies will be posted on the website soon.

### What information is needed to submit an application?

A complete list of required documents is available on [HoustonHarrisHelp.org](http://HoustonHarrisHelp.org).

### How do applications get selected?

The program will prioritize applicants in the lowest income bracket and those who have been unemployed for at least 90 days. For maximum fairness, the program will not operate on a first-come/first-served basis; applications will be selected randomly for processing. Being selected is not a guarantee of funds; once selected, applications will be reviewed to confirm eligibility and other compliance requirements.

### How do landlords participate?

Landlords may enroll in the program any time starting February 18. They will be put on a list so their tenants can identify them when applying. If their tenants are approved for assistance, landlords will be asked to confirm the amount of rent owed, and provide information about how to receive funds through electronic payment (ACH).

### What else do landlords have to do?

Participating landlords must give the tenant credit for any partial payments; waive all late fees, penalties and interest for past-due rent; and cease pursuing legal action while a tenant's application is being processed. Landlord guidelines are available on [HoustonHarrisHelp.org](http://HoustonHarrisHelp.org).



Watch for applications on  
[HoustonHarrisHelp.org](http://HoustonHarrisHelp.org)

