

Rent and Utility Assistance Now Available

New Mexicans can apply for three months of rent and utility assistance under the N.M. Emergency Rental Assistance Program being administered by the state.

To qualify, renters must demonstrate job loss, furlough, closure of a place of employment, or reduction in self-employment compensation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Utility assistance is defined as assistance to pay past-due bills for electricity, gas, water and sewer. Payments will be made directly to a renter's landlord and utility providers.

Assistance is only available to renters, not homeowners, with household incomes at or below 80% of area median income, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Renters also must have made their housing cost payments through March 31, 2020.

A full list of eligibility requirements and an application can be downloaded from the N.M. Emergency Rental Assistance Program at www.RentHelpNM.org Application period is April 5-Aug. 31, 2021.

