

CITY OF IRVINE
SECOND ROUND OF THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

TENANT FAQ's

When can I apply for this second round of the Rental Assistance Program?

Applications will be available between 8:00 am on Monday, September 21, 2020 through 5:00 pm on Friday, October 2, 2020. Please review the city's website, program FAQ's and application to review the required documents that will be needed to complete the application. Do not begin an application until the required documents are available for uploading. Applications will be accepted only through the Online Application Portal. Selection will occur through a lottery process, so it is not first come, first served.

If I receive assistance through the program, do I have to pay it back?

No. This is a grant and does not need to be paid back.

How long will it take to process my application?

Our goal is to process applications and issue payment within 3 to 4 weeks from the close of the application period. However, processing time may be extended if deemed necessary for application review.

How does the lottery system work?

A lottery system is a random spreadsheet generator used to select eligible grant recipients and provides equitable access for all Irvine renters. The applications received early in the application period will not have priority over applications received later in the application period.

When will the lottery selection be conducted?

Lottery selection will be conducted soon after the application closure date with staff targeting on or around October 5, 2020.

If I received rental assistance or lease termination fee assistance in the first round of the City's Rental Assistance Program am I still eligible in this second round?

No, an applicant is not eligible if they applied for and received (or will receive) \$1,000 in rental assistance or lease termination fee assistance from the City in the first round of this program.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- Must be a residential renter in the City of Irvine.
- Must have a current and valid lease.
- Renter must demonstrate a financial hardship as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Must not have received other rental assistance from any governmental agency, including having received (or will receive) \$1,000 in the first round of the City's Rental Assistance Program.

Do you provide the rental assistance funds directly to me?

The rental assistance funds are provided directly to your landlord to be credited to your account. To verify, you may request a copy of your rent balance from your landlord.

In the event that your landlord does not want to participate in the program, the application provides an option whereby the applicant can fill out a W-9 form as required by the City's Finance Department for payment and the \$1,000 check would be addressed to both the applicant and landlord. Upon receiving the check, the applicant would need to sign check and then give to landlord for their signature too before being processed by landlord.

How can I track the status of my application?

Once the application, with provided documentation, has been submitted, a "Thank You" page will be displayed and an email notification along with an attached copy of your completed application will be sent.

Following the lottery, all applicants will receive an email notifying you of the results.

I forgot to upload a document to my application. What do I do?

Please send the document to TTang@cityofirvine.org and reference your name and address. The document will be added to your application.

I have multiple adults living in my household. Can any adults listed on the lease submit an application?

Yes, any adult (18 years of age or older) that is listed on the lease is able to submit an application for rental assistance. However, an applicant is not eligible if they applied for and received (or will receive) rental assistance/lease termination fee assistance from the City in the first round of this program.

I am a student living in student housing (on University owned land) and have experienced loss of employment or reduced income do to COVID-19. Am I eligible to participate in the program?

No, you are not eligible to participate. Please contact 949-824-6811 or housing@uci.edu for assistance.

I am an Irvine resident experiencing challenges with paying rent. However, I have not experienced loss of employment or reduced income due to COVID-19. Am I eligible to participate in the program?

No, you are not eligible to participate. This program is designed to provide relief to tenants who are/have experienced a financial hardship due to a COVID-19 impact such as a loss of employment or reduction in hours of employment.

My address says “Irvine” but I live in Orange County. Am I eligible?

No, you must live in the city limits of the City of Irvine.

I paid my March rent, but I couldn't pay my April rent. Am I eligible?

Yes. If you were current on your rent in March 2020 and you are eligible.

I already terminated my lease. Can I still apply to be reimbursed?

Yes, you can still apply and may be reimbursed. If selected additional documentation may be requested.

I owed my landlord rent/was in eviction proceedings as of March 31, 2020. Am I eligible?

No, the purpose of the program is provide relief to applicants who have a financial hardship directly related to the COVID 19 pandemic and are tenants in good standing as of March 31, 2020.

I have a Housing Choice Voucher. Am I eligible for the program?

No. Households with Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8), who live in Project Based voucher units or receive other government rental assistance are NOT eligible.

Are citizenship documents required for this program?

We do not collect information about citizenship status. Citizenship status does not affect eligibility for this program.

My only income is Social Security/ a pension / payments from my retirement fund. Am I eligible?

No. The purpose of this assistance is to assist household who have fallen behind on rent or need assistance to remain current with rent due to loss of employment or reduced income because of the COVID 19 pandemic.

I am receiving unemployment. Will I still qualify?

Yes. Unemployment is not considered a category of rental assistance from governmental agencies.

I had to leave my job/reduce my hours because I couldn't find childcare. Am I eligible?

Yes. If you can document your child's care provider/school closed and you had to leave your job or reduce hours to care for them, you are eligible for this program.

I left my job because I am medically high-risk person. Am I eligible?

Yes. If you can provide a note from a medical provider or other medical record showing you have a medical condition that puts you at high-risk and you left your job because you didn't want to get sick, you are eligible.

I was an UBER/Lyft driver or other gig employee before COVID-19, am I eligible?

Yes. If you can document income loss because of COVID-19, you are eligible. *Important – documentation is required.*

If I'm eligible, how much rental assistance will I receive?

The amount of assistance will be a maximum one-time grant of \$1,000.

Why can't the program pay my entire rent?

In order to serve the most households, the amount of assistance is limited to a maximum one-time \$1,000 grant.

Should I tell my landlord I'm applying?

Yes. Communication between renters and landlords is important. Most landlords do not want to lose good tenants and communication can only help.

What if my landlord refuses to participate in the program?

We hope that will not happen, but if it does, the City cannot require the landlord to participate. In the event that your landlord does not want to participate in the program, the application provides an option whereby the applicant can fill out a W-9 form as required by the City's Finance Department for payment and the \$1,000 check would be addressed to both the applicant and landlord. Upon receiving the check, the applicant would need to sign check and then give to landlord for their signature too before being processed by landlord.