What is the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)?

The U.S. Treasury has provided the State with funds to:

● help cover rent and utilities costs for individuals and families struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

● keep people housed during the pandemic to avoid spreading COVID-19
Stakeholder Input

- Ongoing survey (dfs.wyo.gov)
- Town Hall Meetings
- Coordination with multiple State of Wyoming agencies
- Looking at how other states are managing an ERAP program
Stakeholder Input

- Highlights from survey responses:
  - Simple, fast, online application process
  - Availability of community in-person assistance and locations with internet access
  - Call center support to quickly answer questions
  - Clear information about eligibility & documentation requirements
  - Electronic signature capability
  - Spanish language support
What can ERAP assist with?

- Rent (past-due and future payments)
- Maintaining safe housing and avoiding evictions
- Utilities - water, sewer, trash, electric, gas, and fuel oil/propane (past-due and future payments)
- Internet
- Case management – other housing supports
Who qualifies?

● Renter households
  ○ Adverse financial impacts of COVID-19
  ○ Risk of homelessness or housing instability
  ○ Income based
    ■ Household income must be at or below 80% of area median income (AMI)
    ■ AMI depends on how many people live with you and the county you live in
### Area Median Income (AMI) by County

#### 80% of the Area Median Monthly Income

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Who can apply?

- Renters can apply
- Landlords can apply, but only with the renter’s permission in writing
When and where can I apply?

- Applications are not yet available
- Goal: Accept applications in April 2021
- Online, internet based filing from a computer or smartphone
- Application assistance
What will the application process look like?

- Online through the internet
- Fastest and best way will be to apply online
- Local community resources available to assist individuals unable to apply online
- Different process than WCDA assistance applications
What documents will be required?

A finalized list will be available when application goes live

- Proposed documents may include:
  - Copy of lease
  - Utility bills and most recent account statement
  - Income documents, such as:
    - Documentation of unemployment benefits
    - 2020 tax filing
    - Most recent pay stubs, covering a two-month period
Additional Documentation

- Additional Documentation may include
  - Past due notices
  - Eviction notices
  - Proof of significant costs or financial hardship related to COVID-19 (medical bills, child care, etc.)
What can renters do now?

• Sign up for ERAP updates at dfs.wyo.gov
• Start looking at the documentation requirements and make a plan for collecting them.
• Share ERAP information with your landlord and let them know you intend to apply as soon as applications become available.
What does a landlord need to do?

• Sign up for ERAP updates at dfs.wyo.gov
• Watch for future stakeholder/partner meetings
• Share ERAP information with your renters
• Start to plan how you can help your renters, or apply on their behalf, when the applications become available
What about people with a mortgage?

- Under federal law this program is only available to household renters (not including commercial renters)
- Contact 2-1-1 for information on other assistance that may be available in your area.
How can my organization get involved?

- Sign up for ERAP updates at dfs.wyo.gov
- Watch for future stakeholder/partner meetings
- Help eligible clients gather necessary documentation
Community Input via Survey

- Community Input will help shape the application process and communication plan.
- Please complete the ERAP Survey located at dfs.wyo.gov
Helpful Links for More Information

- DFS ERAP Program [https://dfs.wyo.gov/assistance-programs/emergency-rental-assistance-program-erap/](https://dfs.wyo.gov/assistance-programs/emergency-rental-assistance-program-erap/)
- 2-1-1 [https://wy211.communityos.org/](https://wy211.communityos.org/)
Questions?