



Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2020

Applications Open for Municipality's Rent and Mortgage Assistance Pilot Program

ANCHORAGE, AK — Today, applications open for the Municipality of Anchorage's \$1 million COVID-19 Rent and Mortgage Assistance Pilot Program, which will provide rent and mortgage support for individuals economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Municipality is partnering with United Way of Anchorage's 2-1-1 to process and distribute the funds.

"Many Anchorage families are paying the price for the public health response to COVID. This program bridges this tough time," said Mayor Berkowitz.

Anchorage residents are eligible to apply for assistance if they suffered a loss of income due to COVID-19. Applicants who were unemployed prior to March 12 or who lost employment for reasons other than COVID-19 are not eligible.

The financial assistance will go to residents who have insufficient funds to pay rent beginning in April. The maximum financial assistance is \$1,000 per household per month for two months for a total maximum assistance of \$2,000 per household.

"Promoting housing stability and preventing homelessness is critical for families and our community's well-being, especially in these particularly difficult times," said Michele Brown, President & CEO of United Way of Anchorage. "We commend the city for quickly addressing this widespread need for those left vulnerable by the economic fallout from the pandemic."

To apply, residents need to call 2-1-1 and answer a series of screening questions. Interpreters are available at 2-1-1 to provide translation services over the phone. All screened applicants will be contacted to set up an appointment. Applicants will need to bring a photo ID, a rental/lease agreement or mortgage statement, and a copy of their most recent paystub or self-employment identification. Rental or mortgage assistance will be made out directly to landlords or mortgage companies, not to renters or borrowers.

The application period will remain open until funds are exhausted or September 30, 2020, whichever comes first.

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