

As the landlord-tenant landscape continues to suffer tectonic sized shifting, today's news may provide a percentage of relief. New York State has just announced a new rental assistance program that will taking applications for the next two weeks.

As stated on the NYS Governmental website:

the "COVID Rent Relief Program will provide eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household's landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance. The COVID Rent Relief Program is not first come, first served. Applications will be accepted throughout the two-week application period. HCR will prioritize eligible households with "greatest economic and social need" accounting for income, rent burden, percent of income lost and risk of homelessness.

The rental assistance payment will cover the difference between the household's rent burden on March 1, 2020 and the increase in rent burden for the months the households is applying for assistance. Households can apply for up to four months in rental assistance.

Eligible households must meet the following criteria:

Before March 1, 2020 and at the time of application, household income must have been below 80% of the area median income, adjusted for household size. You can find your county's area median income, based on your household size: www.hcr.ny.gov/eligible-income-limits-80-ami-county

Before March 1, 2020 and at the time of application, the household must have been paying more than 30% of gross monthly income towards rent. Gross income includes wages as well as any cash grants, child support, social security, unemployment benefits, etc.)

Applicants must have lost income during the period of April 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020."

The link explaining the program, along with FAQ's can be found at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-new-covid-rental-assistance-program>

The application that you can direct tenants to can be found <https://hcr.ny.gov/RRP>