

APPLY for Emergency Rental Assistance! Respond to Notices ASAP

California has significant funds available for rental assistance and unpaid utility bills. Applications will be accepted until those funds run out. www.ac-housingsecure.org OR call 1-833-430-2122.

Renters who apply for rental assistance before September 30th will continue to be protected from eviction through **March 31, 2022**. **NOTE: *Those renters must inform their landlord(s) in writing that they have applied for rental assistance, and they must not have been denied rental assistance due to their income being too high.***

In Berkeley, most eviction notices served during the Local Emergency are considered invalid under local law. HOWEVER, state law allows evictions in all cities including Berkeley if a 15 Day Notice to Pay or Quit is served, and the Tenant Declaration of COVID distress is attached, and the tenant fails to pay up to at least 25% of rent due. Any conflict between the local Berkeley eviction moratorium and state law will ultimately be decided by the Courts, thus- **when in doubt, fill it out-** the Emergency Rental Relief AND the Declaration of COVID impacts, and return to Landlord with 25% minimum rent due.

Under the rental assistance program, if you or a family member have been unable to cover your rent or utilities due to pandemic-related economic hardship, dating back to April 2020, or you anticipate not being able to pay future rent or utilities, you could be eligible for up to 100% of what you owe.

If you do get an eviction notice to pay rent from your landlord after Oct. 1, and you have not applied for the rental assistance, it's recommended that you:

- Apply ASAP at <https://www.ac-housingsecure.org>: Landlords or Tenants Apply online, OR
- If you are a Berkeley tenant, call the Eviction Defense Center: 510-452-4541
 - For renters who receive an eviction notice, you may still be eligible for additional eviction protections, as long as you apply for rent relief within 15 days of receiving the notice
 - Immediately fill out the California Declaration of [COVID-19 Financial Distress Form](#) and provide it to your landlord. Find all forms at: www.housing.ca.gov/
 - Inform your landlord immediately in writing that you have applied for rental assistance.
 - Seek legal help. See below for a list of local nonprofit legal services helping renters through this process.

These procedures can be complicated. Call the Berkeley Rent Board: 510-981-RENT. These local nonprofit legal services are helping renters navigate the new eviction process:

- [East Bay Community Law Center](#)
- [Eviction Defense Center](#)