



Heart for Winter Haven



Polk County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Polk's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) received \$17 million in funding from the federal Emergency Rental Assistance program. Up to \$12,000 in assistance may be paid directly to landlords, property management and utilities companies on behalf of qualifying Polk County residents. For consideration, tenant must be delinquent on rent or utilities at the time of application.

Eligibility Requirements

An "eligible household" is defined as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

- A current resident of Polk County
- Qualifies for unemployment due to COVID-19, has experienced a reduction in household income due to COVID-19, incurred significant costs due to COVID-19 or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability (including eviction notice, utility shutoff notice, past due rent notice, past due utility notice, or any other evidence of unsafe or unhealthy living conditions or housing stability)
- Priority will be given to a tenant(s) with income less than 50 percent of the area median income and unemployed for 90 days
- Has a household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

Eligible Expenses

- Rent
- Rental arrears, including contracted late fees
- Utility arrears (includes electricity, gas, and water)

Level of Assistance

- Eligible households may receive up to 12 months of assistance (from April 1, 2020), plus an additional 3 months if the applicant is able to demonstrate that the extra months are needed to ensure housing stability and funds are available.
- Assistance will be provided to reduce an eligible household's rental arrears before the applicant will be evaluated for its eligibility for assistance for future rent payments
- Applicants will be required to provide documentation to support their eligibility for assistance

Payment Method

- Funds will be paid directly to landlords and utility service providers who agree to participate in ERAP.

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income	Annual Gross Income
1	\$2,879	\$34,550
2	\$3,291	\$39,500
3	\$3,704	\$44,450
4	\$4,112	\$49,350
5	\$4,441	\$53,300
6	\$4,770	\$57,250
7	\$5,100	\$61,200
8	\$5,429	\$65,150

Required Documents

- Florida Driver License for applicant and co-applicant
- Documented income hardship (qualify for unemployment benefits or significant reduction in income or increase in expenses due to COVID-19)
- Delinquent statement for rent and utilities
- Current lease or rental statement in applicant's/co-applicant's name
- Most recent paystub, unemployment letter or 2020 Tax Returns
- W-9 form from your landlord or property manager

No Duplication of Benefits

- Assistance provided for an eligible household may not duplicate any other assistance, including federal, state and local assistance provided for the same costs or same months.
- An eligible household that occupies a federally-subsidized residential or mixed-use property may receive assistance, if funds are not applied to costs that have been or will be reimbursed under any other federal assistance.

Apply Now

- You may call us at 863-291-6270 and press "1"
- Apply online by clicking [HERE](#)