

Mayor Bowser Launches STAY DC, a Rent and Utility Assistance Program that Provides Assistance to DC Residents

April 26, 2021

On April 12, 2021, Mayor Bowser launched Stronger Together by Assisting You (STAY) DC, which provides grant funding to DC renters so that they can cover past and future rent and utility costs. STAY DC is intended to replace CHAP, but unlike CHAP, renters are eligible to pay off utility payments for certain eligible utilities. More information about STAY DC and other COVID-19 Rental Assistance Programs can be found [here](#).

- I. **Managed by:** Department of Human Services (DHS) in collaboration with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).
- II. **Where do funds come from?**
 - A. \$152 million come from the federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds allocated to the District under American Rescue Plan that was passed on March 11, 2021; and
 - B. \$200 million come from the federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds allocated to the District under Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that was passed in December of 2020.
- III. **Program benefits:**
 - A. Renters may apply for up to 12 months of back rent and utility assistance and up to 3 months at a time of future rent from April 1, 2020 onward, for a total of up to 18 months.
 - B. Landlords may begin an application on a renter's behalf.
 - C. Eligible utility costs include electricity; natural gas; and water and sewer. Costs for cable or internet access are not covered.
 - D. It is anticipated that applications will be accepted for this program through September 31, 2021.
- IV. **Eligibility:**
 - A. Assistance through STAY DC is available to District residents who:
 1. Rent/lease/sublease a home/unit/apartment or limited equity cooperative (LEC) from a housing provider;
 2. Meet household income requirements;
 - a) 2020 Annual income equal to or less than 80% of AMI; or
 - b) Recent income (total household income in the last 2 months multiplied by 6) that is equal or less than 80% AMI.
 3. Face a financial hardship during COVID-19;
 4. Face housing instability or homelessness; and,
 5. Their housing provider is NOT an immediate family member.
 - B. This program is open to all District households regardless of current citizenship status.

V. **Application:**

- A. The application process is online and can be found [here](#).
- B. Overview of documents needed can be found [here](#).

VI. **Administering CBOs**

- A. Greater Washington Urban League – (202) 524-8175 or covidrent@gwul.org
- B. Housing Counseling Services – (202) 667-7339 or chap@housingetc.org
- C. United Planning Organization – (202) 231-7910 or (202) 562-3800 or housingservices@upo.org