

Rental Relief Fund — City of Boston

The Rental Relief Fund was created to help Boston residents at risk of losing their rental housing due to COVID-19. The funds will help income-eligible tenants in the City of Boston who do not have access to expanded unemployment benefits, or because of the nature of their jobs, the unemployment benefits they will receive represent a significant reduction in their actual income.

Applicants will also need to certify that they do not have savings to meet this need, and do not have access to other resources, including gifts from family members or other associates.

Due to the high volume of applications and demonstrated need, this fund has transitioned to a lottery system. The Rental Relief Fund will accept pre-screening forms for the second round of funding through **Friday, June 19, at 12 p.m.** The lottery will be conducted on **Monday, June 22.**

Eligible uses include:

- Eligible households can receive up to \$4,000 to preserve their tenancies or to access new permanent housing by paying at least a portion of their first and last month's rent and security deposit

Which Boston residents are eligible for the Rental Relief Fund?

- Residents who have lost a job or income due to COVID-19 and have the inability to make rental payments
- To qualify, you must not be eligible for the new extended unemployment benefits offered by the federal government, or
- Because of the nature of your job, the unemployment benefits that you will receive represent a significant reduction in your actual income. Qualified residents will earn less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) annually, which is approximately \$73,000 for a two person household. Household size will be taken into account.
- A person's immigration status is not asked during the Rental Relief Fund application process. Receiving funds does not impact other financial assistance that a person may already be receiving. Also, assistance from the fund does not affect immigration applications as a "public charge" ground of inadmissibility.

Where can you apply for the Rental Relief Fund?

- You can apply and fill out the pre-screening form at boston.gov/rental-relief

What is the Rental Relief Fund process?

- **Step One:** Fill out **pre-screening** form by **12 p.m. on Friday, June 19**
- **Step Two:** All eligible applicants will be entered into a lottery on Monday, June 22. Following the lottery, all eligible applicants will receive notice of their lottery rank. The **Office of Housing Stability** will use this rank to refer applicants by numerical order to one of the partner agencies. The lottery rankings for the Rental Relief Fund are determined by eligibility for unemployment benefits and the lottery number assigned during the electronic randomization program.
- **Step Three:** The partner agencies will reach out directly to residents and have them complete an application form.

What other documentation is necessary?

- For the full application form in Step Three, you will need to provide photo documentation for the head of household, a current signed lease or tenancy agreement, and contact information for your property owner/landlord.

How can I receive help in completing my Rental Relief Fund application?

- Lawyers for Civil Rights is running a *pro bono* Rental Relief Fund application assistance project. You can request for a volunteer to help you by going to our intake form at: lawyersforcivilrights.org/gethelp