



Tenant Hotline
Phone: 612-728-5767
Online: [homelinemn.org/email](mailto:homelinemn.org@email)

COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program
&
Attorney General's Office Enforcement of
Governor Walz's Executive Orders on Evictions

Guest Speakers:

- Joel Salzer & Alyssa Wetzel-Moore from Minnesota Housing
- Assistant Attorney General Katherine Kelly

September 2, 2020 – 1:30-3:00pm

Hosted by:

Managing Attorney & Tenant Hotline Director Michael Vraa
Executive Director Eric Hauge

What is HOME Line?

- HOME Line is a statewide nonprofit organization providing free legal, educational, and advocacy services to Minnesota renters. We have advised approximately 250,000 renters since 1992.
- Our primary program is a free and confidential legal hotline any Minnesota renter can contact us to receive legal advice specific to their situation, in 4 languages: **612-728-5767 / homelinemn.org/email**
- HOME Line has a staff of 18, including attorneys, tenant advocates, and tenant organizers. We also rely on volunteers and interns.



HOME Line COVID-19 Webinars & Resources

Next week's webinar: Wednesday, September 9th, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

**Special Guest Speaker: Dan Hylton, Research Manager at
HousingLink:
*Rental Trends During a Pandemic***

Website Resources:

- General COVID-19 issue page on EOs, rental assistance, etc.
- FAQs on EO 20-79 changes, masks in rental housing, privacy, loss of amenities
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on our website:

homelinemn.org — “COVID-19” tab at top right





COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

Joel Salzer & Alyssa Wetzel-Moore

September, 2 2020



Minnesota Housing | mnhousing.gov

Minnesota Housing and COVID-19

- Centralized location for communications

<http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/np/covid-19>

- COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

<http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/np/covid19housingassistanceprogramFAQ>

COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

- The goal of the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program is to help individuals and families in Minnesota maintain housing during the public health emergency and prevent eviction and homelessness.
- The program pays for past due housing-related bills.



COVID-19 Housing Assistance Overview



- Up to \$100,000,000 in assistance is available for housing related bills to stabilize households and prevent evictions, displacement, and homelessness
- 44 administrators statewide, including seven tribal nations and several culturally specific providers
- Per federal law, funds must be spent by 12/30/20

COVID-19 Housing Assistance Overview

Highlights of Program



- Geared toward equity and serving households most impacted by housing instability and COVID-19
- No cap on the amount of assistance; limited eligibility requirements for households
- Central intake via call, text, or online; and referral to local administrators
- Application available in English as well as three (3) other languages
- Working to strengthen connection between this program and existing homelessness prevention network

Eligible Expenses

Housing Expense Payments

- Rent payments
- Mortgage payments (including homeowner insurance)
- Homeowners association dues
- Manufactured home payments and lot rents
- Utilities
- Other housing related costs

Participant Eligibility

- Must be a Minnesota resident.
- Must have a household income at or below 300% of federal poverty guidelines (Priority at 200% FPG).
- Must have a rent payment, mortgage payment, homeowner association dues, contract for deed payment, homeowner insurance payment, utility payment, or other housing-related expenses incurred on/after March 1, 2020 that is past due.
- Must be unable to make the payment(s) owed because of the public health emergency due to unemployment, illness, or another COVID-19 related issue.

What Applicants Need to Apply

In order to apply, individuals and families will need:

- Personal identification (to verify Minnesota resident)
- Proof of total gross income from past 30 days (to verify income eligibility)
- Verification of balance owed (to verify unpaid bill)
- Contact information for the organization to be paid (landlord, mortgage servicers, manufactured park owner, etc.)



Central Intake Process

Household Assistance – How to Apply

COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

Apply Now!

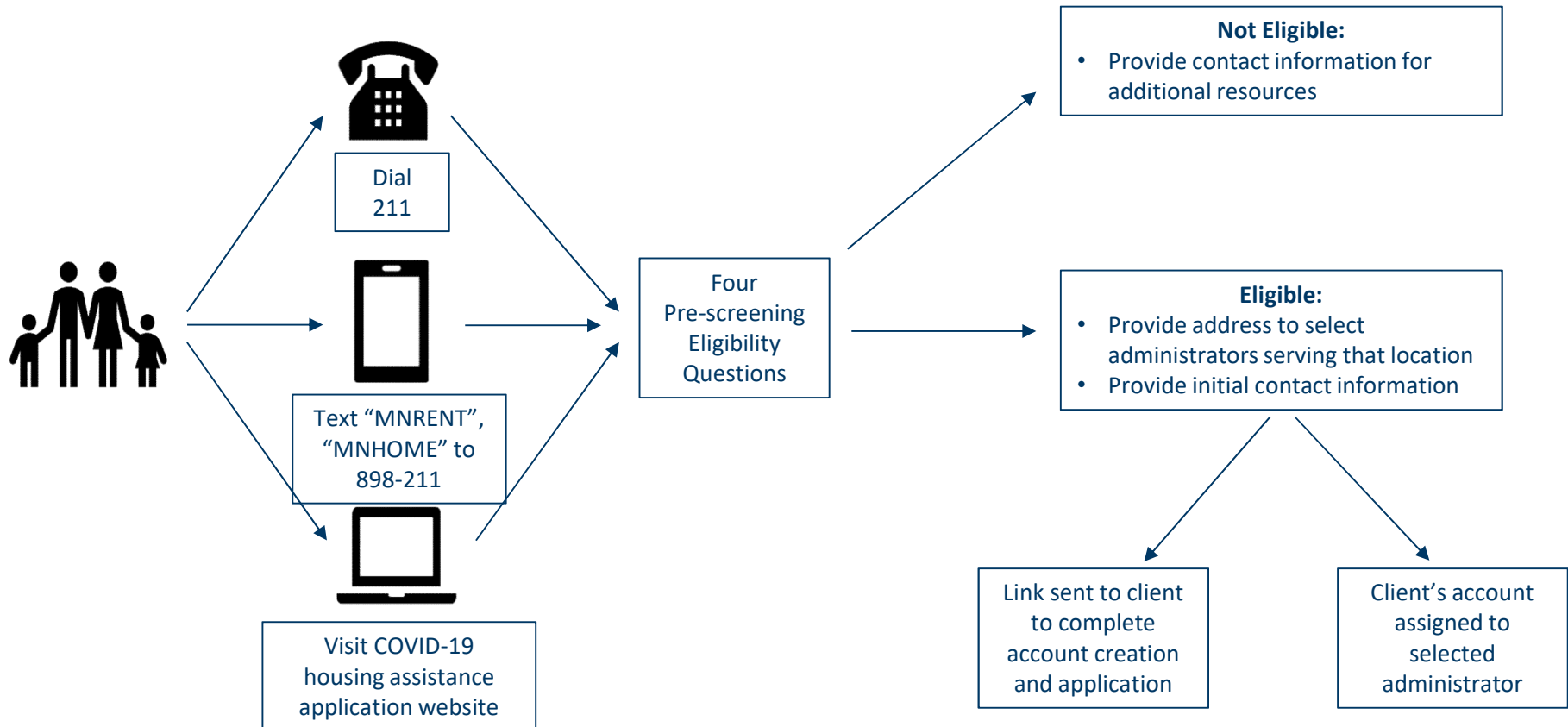
 **Call 211**
Toll Free: 1-800-543-7709

 **Visit 211unitedway.org**

 **Text “MNRENT” or
“MNHOME” to 898-211**

 **MINNESOTA HOUSING**

Central Intake Process



Household Common Application

Minnesota COVID-19 Housing Assistance Application

- Clients complete application online (or with assistance from provider)
- Clients can either upload documents or provide paper documents to provider
- Provider assists client with securing verification – this can be time consuming

Implementation

- Program launched on Monday, August 24
- Through Saturday, there were ~2,000 texts to “MNHOME” or “MNRENT”
- Through Friday, there were ~4,000 calls
 - Average wait time of 2 minute; Average call length 10 minutes
- Through Monday, ~ 10,000 applicants ~12.5 million in requested assistance
- 113 payments made ~ \$130,000

Thank You!

Joel Salzer & Alyssa Wetzel-Moore
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The Office of the
Minnesota Attorney General
helping people afford their lives and live with dignity and respect

ENFORCEMENT OF GOVERNOR WALZ'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS ON EVICTIONS

Assistant Attorney General Katherine Kelly

AG's Authority

Executive Order 20-79, paragraph 10 provides:

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 12.45, a person who willfully violates paragraphs 2, 3, and 5 of this Executive Order is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction must be punished by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 90 days. **The Attorney General may also seek any relief available pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2019, section 8.31.**

AG's Authority

In addition to the explicit authority provided by the Executive Order, Minnesota Statutes section 8.31 also provides the Attorney General with authority to enforce the Executive Order:

The attorney general shall investigate violations of the law of this state respecting unfair, discriminatory, and other unlawful practices in business, commerce, or trade[.]

Enforcement Procedure

Tenants fill out a complaint online at
www.ag.state.mn.us

Or

Call our phone line at (651) 296-3353 or
(800) 657-3787

The Office of
**MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL
KEITH ELLISON**

[How Can We Help?](#) [Topics](#) [Charities](#) [About Our Office](#) [News and Important Information](#)

In an effort to do our part to help all Minnesotans stay healthy, we are asking everyone who has questions or would like to submit a complaint to contact our office by phone or internet only. Thank you for your understanding. [Click here for more information](#)



We want to hear from you.

(651) 296-3353 (Twin Cities Calling Area) • (800) 657-3787 (Outside the Twin Cities)
(800) 627-3529 (Minnesota Relay)

445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400, St. Paul, MN 55101



Attorney General Ellison secures agreement to end illegal price gouging of face masks

Saint Paul re-seller bought face masks from Minnesota businesses, resold them at unconscionably high prices around the country; will stop engaging in abusive sales during Governor's peacetime emergency, will compensate customers

"We're helping Minnesotans afford their lives during this crisis by cracking down on price-gouging on essential goods and services. We're also helping people stay safe by making sure that protective gear is available everywhere at fair prices," Attorney General Ellison said.

[More Information](#)

[\(PREVIOUS SLIDE](#)

[SLIDE 3 OF 5](#)

[NEXT SLIDE \)](#)

[VIEW ALL COMMUNICATIONS](#)

**TAKE
ACTION**

 **FILE A
COMPLAINT**

 **ORDER
PUBLICATIONS**

 **CONTACT US**



Tenant Eviction Complaint Form ([English](#), [Español](#), [Hmong](#), & [Somali](#))

A recent Executive Order forbids landlords from evicting tenants or asking them to leave during the pandemic. Tenants who are told they have to leave their home may report the landlord to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

Enforcement Procedure

- The tenant's complaint is reviewed by an attorney who looks for violations of the Governor's Executive Order.
- We then contact both the tenant and the landlord.
- We try to obtain the landlord's agreement to comply with the Executive Order through education and how the Order applies in that particular situation.

Enforcement Procedure

- Tenant complaints to the Attorney General's Office are "private" pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.65(c).
- We do not ask for a tenant's immigration status.
- If a tenant has an advocate, the advocate can fill the form out for the tenant.
- Receive a wide-variety of complaints.

Enforcement Results

- We have received over 1,300 reports of landlords violating the Executive Order.
- Most complaints involve a landlord who did not know that what they were doing was illegal.
- The vast majority of landlords agree to comply after we contact them.
- Sued six landlords for violating the Order.

Going Forward

- The Governor's Peacetime Emergency currently extends to September 11.
- Renewed in 30-day increments.
- Future housing Executive Orders?



Q & A

Tenant Hotline:

Phone: 612-728-5767

Online: homelinemn.org/email

- HOME Line ofrece servicios en español. Para Español, llame al 612-255-8870.
- HOME Line waxay bixisaa adeeg ku baxa Afka-Soomaaliga. Af- Soomaali wac 612-255-8860.
- Peb lub koom haum HOME Line muaj neeg txhais lus Hmoob. Hais lus Hmoob, Hu 612-255-7104.

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Thank You