

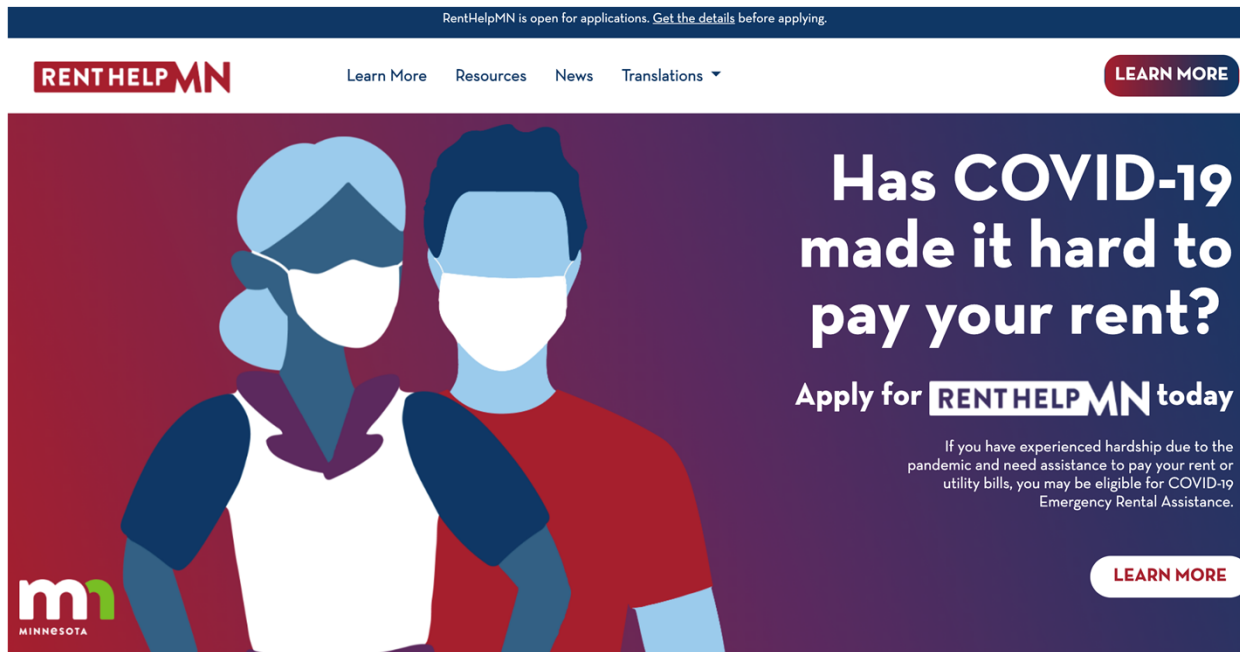
About  
RentHelpMN



# About RentHelpMN



RentHelpMN is Minnesota's program to support stable housing for renters impacted by the COVID epidemic.



Applicants can talk to trained experts in the language of their choice by calling



# Goals of rental assistance



- **Maintain housing stability**
  - Keeping people in their homes during a public health crisis
  - Renters with low incomes face long timeframes for economic recovery
  - Evictions affect renters' ability to have stable housing for years to come
- **Cover overdue rent**
  - Property owners continue to provide and maintain rental properties
  - Property owners face uncertainty about when their incomes will stabilize
  - Lost income is problematic and stressful

# Funding is available

- The RentHelpMN program continues to operate and there is significant funding available to meet the needs of Minnesota renters and property managers into 2022.
- There is no deadline for applications, and no open/closed periods for the RentHelpMN program.

**RENTHELP**MN



# Who is eligible?

Who may be eligible? You must meet five criteria:

- You are a renter.
- You live in Minnesota.
- Your income has been negatively impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Your income is below 80% of the Area Median Income for your county.
- At this time, you must have past-due rent to be eligible to apply.

*See details at [RentHelpMN.org](https://RentHelpMN.org)*



# Types of Housing Covered

- Apartments
- Rented single-family homes and condos
- Rented manufactured homes
- Manufactured home lot rent
- Hotel and motel stays, if it is the renter's primary residence
- Other informal lease arrangements, subject to review

**RENTHELP**MN

“With a little help, I can stay in my home.”

GET  
**RENTHELP**MN  
TODAY



# Applying for RentHelpMN



# Getting Ready to Apply

Start with the checklist on RentHelpMN.org to gather the information you'll need to apply:

- Identification
- Income or Self-Certification of Income
- Rental agreement
- Past due housing expenses
- Contact information for the property owner or manager



**RENT HELP MN**

## RENTERS, GET READY

Do you need help paying your rent or utilities?  
RentHelpMN is coming soon and may be able to help. Here's how to get ready to apply.

**Am I eligible?**

- Are you a renter living in Minnesota?
- Are you qualified for unemployment insurance? OR, Have you been negatively impacted by COVID-19 in any way?
- Do you know the annual income for all adults in your household? (Must meet income limits, see below)
- Do you have past-due rent?

*If you answered yes to all four questions, you will be eligible to apply when the program opens.*

**What do I need to apply?**

Gather these documents ahead of time to make it easier to complete your application. You can upload cell phone pictures or scanned copies, or call 211 if you need assistance.

- Your landlord's name, address and contact information** - We will need to contact your landlord to send payment and confirm it's your main address.
- Copy of your lease or rental agreement** - If you are not on a lease, a document from your landlord or the property owner showing the amount you pay and/or the amount you owe for rent. We can provide a form if needed.
- Past-due rent statement (or ledger)** - If you are behind on your rent, try to get a ledger or statement from your landlord showing how much and for which months you still owe rent.
- A list of who lives in your household** - This program includes everyone living there the day you apply. In addition to adults and children in a family, that may include non-custodial children, people not on the lease, family members you care for in your home, unborn children and others living with you now. Unrelated adults (roommates) who live together are considered a household. Note that all adults in the household must share their income information.
- Income Documentation:**
  - 2020 Taxable Income (1040s, 1099s or W2s)
  - Pay Stubs or other payment verification (two months)
- A form of identification for the head of household** - We will need to confirm that you are who you say you are with state-issued, Tribal or other international identification.  
*Call 211 if you do not have the required income documentation.*

**What about my utility bills?**

To request help with utility bills or other expenses, have these ready.

- A utility bill (tenant-paid gas, electric, heat, energy, water or sewer, or other expenses)
- A past-due notice from a utility company

**m** Minnesota Housing  
It is the policy of Minnesota Housing to affirmatively further fair housing in all its programs and that individuals of similar income levels have equal access to Minnesota Housing programs, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, familial status, gender identity or sexual orientation.



# How to Apply

Renters and Property Owners both participate in the application process.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the RentHelpMN website. On the left is the logo "RENTHELP MN" in white text on a red background. To its right are links for "Learn More", "Resources", "News", and "Translations" with a dropdown arrow. On the far right is a red button with white text that says "LEARN MORE". Below the navigation bar are two large colored boxes. The left box is purple and titled "Renter Application" in white. It contains the text: "If you are a renter living in Minnesota who meets the eligibility requirements, you can apply for RentHelpMN." At the bottom of this box is a white button with the text "RENTERS: APPLY NOW". The right box is dark blue and titled "Landlord Registration" in white. It contains the text: "Are you a landlord with tenants behind on rent? RentHelpMN is a new opportunity to pay for owed rent." At the bottom of this box is a white button with the text "LANDLORDS: REGISTER NOW".

# Property Owner/Manager Responsibility:

- It is helpful if property managers create an account and enter information for each property. This central account will assist in viewing and responding to renter applications.
- Share the property IDs and email address with renters, or begin an application for the renter.
- When a renter applies, confirm lease and rent information, and verify payment information to receive the payment directly.

A screenshot of the "PROPERTY MANAGER/OWNER REGISTRATION" form on the RENTHELPMN website. The form includes fields for First Name, Last Name, Email, Confirm Email, Password, Confirm Password, Phone Number, and Confirm Phone Number. There is a checkbox for "I agree to the Terms of Service" and a blue "REGISTER" button. A "BACK" link is located at the bottom left of the form area.

# Renter Responsibility:

- Complete a pre-screen to determine eligibility.
- Request funds for rent that is owed, utility bills that are in the renter's name, other eligible housing expenses, and future rent (up to three months.)
- Match their application to their property manager and property
- Respond promptly to requests for more information.



Everyone must complete a pre-screen before applying.

[Click Here to Start Your Pre-screening](#)

[Documentation Checklist](#)

PLEASE BE PREPARED TO UPLOAD COPIES OF YOUR DOCUMENTS IN THE PRE-SCREENING CHECKLIST. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THE LEGIBILITY OF YOUR PHOTOS AND/OR SCANS OTHERWISE IT CAN DELAY YOUR APPLICATION. TO PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION YOU MUST EITHER HAVE AN ACTIVE EMAIL ACCOUNT OR AN ACTIVE PHONE NUMBER TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS (PROVIDER TEXT AND DATA FEES MAY APPLY). FUNDS ARE NOT GUARANTEED. IF YOU NEED HELP WITH THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT 211. IF YOU NEED A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION DUE TO A DISABILITY, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT 211.

# How can renters and property managers work together?

When renters and property managers cooperate on an application, the application tends to be more thorough and can be processed faster for payment.

## **How can property managers assist?**

1. Register in RentHelpMN and enter properties.
2. Begin an application on behalf of a renter. OR
3. Provide renters with contact information, including the email address used to register and the RentHelpMN ID for properties entered.
4. Provide a copy of the rental agreement.
5. Prepare and share a ledger of past due rent owed. A sample is at [renthelpmn.org/resources](http://renthelpmn.org/resources).

# Getting Started



## Online

- To begin an application, visit [RentHelpMN.org](https://RentHelpMN.org)
- Scroll down until you see “Renters: Apply Now” or “Landlords: Register Now.”

## On Paper

- Call 2-1-1 (or 800-543-7709) to request a paper application.

## For more help:

Call 2-1-1 to be referred to a local field partner who can help you complete your application.

# Who Are Field Partners?



Field Partners are local community organizations who help renters complete the application process for RentHelpMN.

Field Partners also reach out to community members to encourage them to apply, and can answer questions about the program and application process.

If you have questions or would like assistance, call 2-1-1 to request a field partner referral.

# What happens after I apply?

- When you complete your application, print a confirmation you can share with your property manager to show you've applied.
- Every application is reviewed by a processor to make sure the application is complete.
- If information is missing or incomplete, someone will reach out to the renter or the property owner to finish the application process.
- Applicants may need to provide updated information from time to time.



# How can I track my application?

- If you provide an email address, you can log in to your account on the application portal to check on your application status.
- You can also call 2-1-1 for information about your application.





## Payments:

- After an applicant is approved, the property manager is asked to confirm the amount and payment information.
- Property managers upload a W-9 and enter a mailing address or ACH information.
- Payments are sent to the property manager. If a manager chooses not to participate, the payment may be sent to the renter.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Can I edit my application?**

No, once your application is submitted it cannot be edited. Please be sure you have all of your documentation ready before you begin. Use the checklist to prepare. If additional information is needed once your application is submitted, you will be contacted.

## **Does the help received from RentHelpMN have to be paid back?**

No, this aid does not need to be paid back



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What if I have a housing choice voucher or live in public housing?**

You can apply to receive help for the portion of the rent and other expenses that you pay.

## **Do I need to share my citizenship or residency status?**

RentHelpMN welcomes applications from all renters who meet the criteria for the program. The application does not require immigration or citizenship status.

Call 2-1-1 if you would like to know more.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What if I am unemployed?**

You can apply for help from RentHelpMN even if you are not working.

## **Is there a limit to how much help I can request?**

You can request help for up to 18 months of rent. There is no dollar limit.

## **What if I live with roommates?**

Everyone that lives in your unit is considered part of the household and you must apply together (unless it is a clearly documented arrangement to rent part of a home separately.) All adults in the household must provide income documentation.



More information about  
**RentHelpMN**



# Renter protections lifting

- A pending application is protection from eviction for non-payment of rent, while it is pending.
- Renters who receive an eviction notice must respond and still need to show up in court.
- Minnesota Housing has staff who are assisting in communication with our eviction courts to confirm renter application status.
- As we reach more than 18 months into the pandemic, some applicants are reaching the 18-month federal assistance maximum.



All lease termination and eviction protections are lifted except for eligible renters with pending COVID-19 rental assistance applications.



All lease termination and eviction protections are lifted.

# Assistance for Prior Dwelling

On October 15, RentHelpMN began accepting requests for past-due rent for housing a renter no longer lives in.



- This process is driven by the renter and they must agree to complete the request. The property manager must also confirm the request.
- The purpose is to clear debts that may prevent them from obtaining future housing.
- Any assistance received is counted toward the 18-month limit.

# Utility assistance



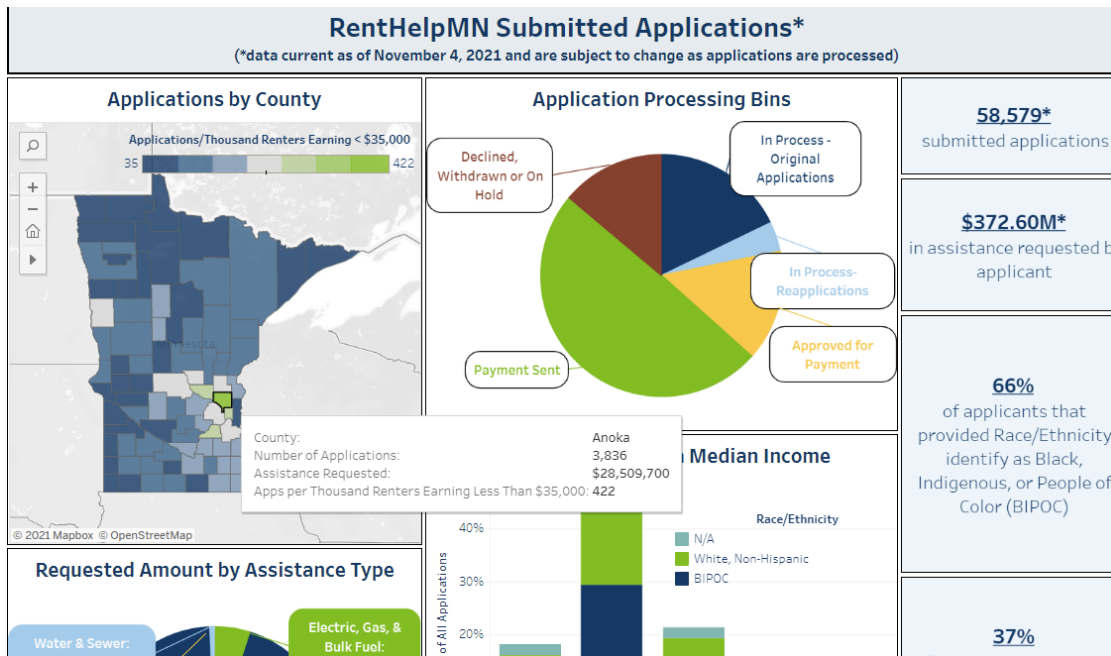
Renters may request utility assistance as part of their application, or may choose to apply with the Energy Assistance Program (EAP.) RentHelpMN is available to those renters whose incomes are too high to qualify for EAP.



- Energy Assistance Program has an income limit of 60% AMI and currently over 85% of RentHelpMN applicants meet that limit.
- Cold Weather Rules: Entering into a payment plan provides protection starting October 1, 2021, through April 30, 2022.
- The PUC recently decided that pending applications for utilities with RentHelpMN will confer the same protection as a pending application with EAP.



# Applications Dashboard



The dashboard includes a variety of tools to view data about the program.

Clicking on elements in the map or charts will show more detailed information about that segment of applicants.

You can select a county, or a demographic segment, or a combination.

[Connect to the dashboard at renthelpmn.org/news](https://renthelpmn.org/news)

# Payments to date



RentHelpMN has paid more than \$248.3 million statewide in assistance to Minnesotans in need through more than 52,300 payments\*\* (\$32.7m in 7,270+ payments since November 8)

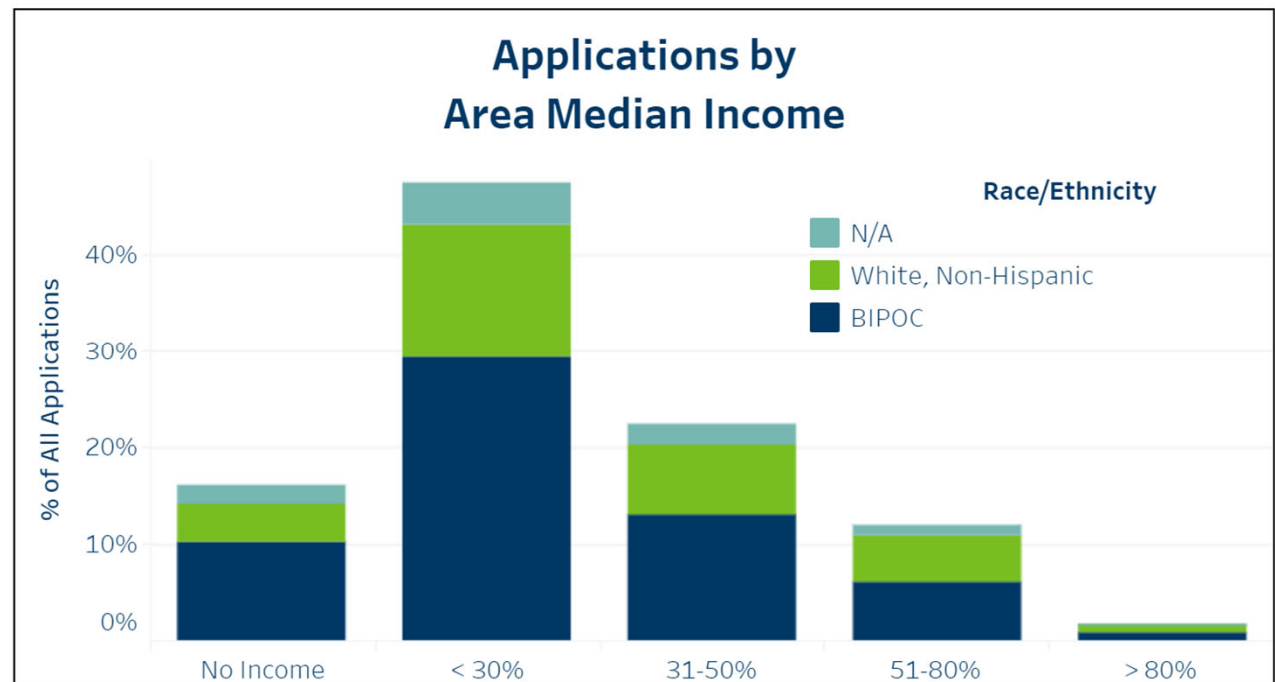
*58,579 applications submitted, for \$373 million of requested aid.\**

\*Submitted applications, completed and under review. \*\*Payment data as of 11/15/2021

# Reaching the most at-risk renters

- Two-thirds of applicants have incomes below 30% AMI.
- Two-thirds of applicants are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. (BIPOC)
- Demographic information has been steady.

**66%**  
of applicants that provided Race/Ethnicity identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC)



# Falling behind and eligible? Apply.



Our message to renters who have fallen behind:

- Apply for RentHelpMN.
- Communicate with your property owner/manager.
- Submit all documents requested.
- Be responsive to communications about your application.
- We have the funds to help and are working to get them sent.



For more information about **RENTHELP**MN



Visit [RentHelpMN.org](https://RentHelpMN.org)

Call 2-1-1 (or 800-543-7709)

*Materials are available in Hmong, Somali, Spanish and English.*