

California COVID-19 Rent Relief Program

Low-income tenants living in Mendocino and Lake counties may be eligible for help to pay past or future rent and utilities if they cannot pay because of the COVID-19 emergency.

Go to [HousingisKey.com](https://www.housingiskey.com) or call (833) 430-2122 for information and to apply.

Tenants can apply for this program starting on **March 15, 2021**.

Who can apply?

Both tenants and landlords can apply.

What kind of rent help can a tenant get?

- **Tenant and Landlord Joint Application for Past-Due Rent**

Landlords who participate can get 80% of an eligible tenant's unpaid rent that was due between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021. To get this help, the landlord has to agree to forgive the remaining 20% of unpaid rent during that time period. The landlord and tenant must both agree to apply. Tenants can *start* this application on their own.

- **Tenant Only Application for Past-Due Rent**

A tenant can apply on their own and receive 25% of unpaid rent between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021. Paying this 25 percent by June 30, 2021 can help keep you in your home under the extended eviction protections in a law called the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act.

- **Tenant Only Application for Current and Future Rent**

Eligible tenants can receive rental assistance equal to 25% of their monthly rent that is currently due or will be due in future months. Combined with the past-due rent assistance, this will help tenants stay housed once the eviction protections in the COVID-19 Tenant Relief Act end on June 30, 2021.

- **Utility Assistance**

Eligible tenants may also apply for help to pay up to 12 months of past-due and current/future utility bills.

What tenants are eligible?

If one or more individuals in your household meet these requirements, you are eligible to apply:

(1) Qualified for unemployment benefits **or** experienced a reduction in household income, had significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due to COVID-19; and

(2) At risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which may include:

- a past-due utility or rent notice or eviction notice;
- unsafe or unhealthy living conditions; or
- any other evidence of such risk, as determined by the program

(3) Household income that is not more than 80 percent of the area median income

Applicants will **not** be asked about their citizenship, nor will they be required to show proof of citizenship.

What do tenants need to apply?

Applicants will need proof of a financial hardship due to COVID-19, such as:

- A job termination letter
- Evidence that you have applied for unemployment benefits
- Evidence that your unemployment benefits have expired (including unemployment benefits provided through the CARES Act)
- For those self-employed: tax records, income statements, or other evidence showing loss of income
- **Other items *will* be considered.**

If you are a tenant and have questions about your rights and obligations as a tenant, contact Legal Services of Northern California:

Tel.: (707) 462-1471, toll free (877) 529-7700

Email: ukiah-office@lsnc.net



Legal Services of Northern California's Ukiah Regional Office provides free legal assistance to low-income residents and seniors of Mendocino and Lake Counties in the areas of housing, public benefits, health rights, unemployment, reentry/criminal record-clean up, immigration (naturalization, green card renewal, U-Visa), and education.