



## **CARES** Rent Relief Program

# Were you unable to afford rent due to COVID-19?

**Qualifying residents of Lycoming County may be eligible for assistance.**

The Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed in March, provided \$3.9 billion for Pennsylvania and is intended to help people hurt economically during the pandemic. In late May, the General Assembly directed \$175 million of these CARES dollars to the Pennsylvania Housing & Finance Agency (PHFA) to provide assistance for struggling renters and homeowners. The portion for rent assistance is at least \$150 million.

STEP, Inc. is one of the organizations identified by PHFA to process the large number of rent relief applications anticipated. Below you will find the documentation needed to request CARES rental assistance.

**Applications cannot be processed until all documentation is submitted.**

## All applications must include the following:

- 1. Pre-COVID employment/income documentation**
  - Pay stub and/or employer verification
- 2. Post-COVID employment/income documentation**
  - Pay stub; and/or
  - Unemployment Compensation verification; and
  - Employer verification
- 3. Lessee Application**
- 4. Landlord Application**
- 5. Landlord Property Certificate**
- 6. Copy of lease or proof of oral agreement**
- 7. W-9 for landlord**
- 8. STEP General Registration and Assessment**

## Additional details & qualifying criteria

- **Must meet 100% of median income guidelines pre-COVID**
- **Must have 30% or more reduction of income for the household due to COVID - the extra \$600 a week from unemployment does count**
- **\$750 maximum payment, landlord must agree to waive rent over that amount**
- **6 month maximum not to exceed \$4,500 per household**
- **Mortgage payments not applicable, visit [www.phfa.org/pacares/mortgage.aspx](http://www.phfa.org/pacares/mortgage.aspx) for mortgage assistance**
- **Can cover back rent beginning March 1, but cannot reimburse rent already paid - rent must be at least 30 days past due**
- **Can cover current and future rent through November 30, 2020 - must continue to have 30% reduction in income**

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at [www.PHFA.org/pacares](http://www.PHFA.org/pacares) to ensure you qualify.



Visit [www.bit.ly/STEP CARES](http://www.bit.ly/STEP CARES) to get started!



For more information call STEP at 570.326.0587 or email [mamagargle@stepcorp.org](mailto:mamagargle@stepcorp.org).