
Rent and Utility Payment Assistance Programs

If you have experienced a change in your income, or you are having trouble paying your back rent and utilities, you may qualify for payment assistance.

Here is How to get Help!

Detroit Coronavirus Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) Program: The COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (CERA) program helps keep Detroit residents who are behind on their rent during COVID-19 in their homes. Financial assistance is available for renters with past due rent and utilities. Free legal representation may also be available for renters with court cases.

Step 1: Be Proactive- If you have experienced a change in your income, call your property manager to report a change in your circumstances.

Step 2: Get help by calling the Detroit Eviction Helpline- Call **(866) 313-2520** to get more information about you might qualify for up to 12 months of rental payment assistance and \$2,500 in utility payment assistance. The helpline is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM and on Saturday from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM.

Step 3: Apply for assistance - Complete an online application at ceraapp.michigan.gov. In the landlord section of the application, add DHC as the landlord and use email address, cera@dhcmi.org. DHC will be notified that you have applied for assistance.

Step 4: Get help by calling 211 - Call 2-1-1 and ask how you can get help paying your utility bill or go to www.mi211.org to learn about agencies that may assist you with your energy bill.

Step 5: State Emergency Relief (SER) Program - Apply directly at newmbridges.michigan.gov for bill payment assistance or call **855-275-6424**.

Step 6: Apply for a Home Heating Credit Starting January 1st –Applications are accepted January 1 - September 30 each year. Even though this funding is distributed by the MI Dept. of Treasury, you do not need to pay taxes or wait for a tax return to receive this credit. You can apply any time after January 1.

- Visit the Michigan Department of Treasury website at michigan.gov/treasury for more information.
- Pick up a paper copy at a public library, post office, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) office or other locations where income tax forms are available.
- Call the Department of Treasury at **517-636-4486**.
- If you are hearing- or speech-impaired, contact the Michigan Relay Center, 800-**649-2777** or **7-1-1**.

Step 7: Get caught up on your rent with a DHC Repayment Agreement- Call your property manager to ask if you qualify for a repayment agreement.