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Florida receives another \$740 million for rental assistance. Here's how you can apply.

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Florida has received an additional \$740.4 million from the federal government for its emergency rental assistance program, [OUR Florida](#), state officials announced Thursday.

To qualify for the program, renters must be low income or unemployed and be behind on rent or utility payments — or at risk of falling behind. They also must have had a loss of income or other financial hardship during the last year.

Since launching in May 2021, the program has distributed over \$858 million to roughly 164,000 households. The money comes from the U.S. Treasury as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. It is funded by the nation's taxpayers.

“The OUR Florida program is another example of our efforts to assist Florida families on their road to economic self-sufficiency,” said Shevaun Harris, secretary of the Florida Department of Children and Families, which is administering the program. The funds also will help Florida's overall economic recovery, Harris said.

The OUR Florida vendor has recently hired additional workers and now has a staff of 700 to process applications and answer calls. Renters who can't access the online application at OURFlorida.com can call 1-833-493-0594 seven days a week between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Eligible Florida renters are entitled up to 15 months of rent and utility payments. The eligible income limits vary by county, but in Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Lake counties, the limit for a single, childless adult is \$42,750. For a family of four, the limit is \$61,050.

If you are homeless or in immediate danger of homelessness, contact the Homeless Services Network of Central Florida at hsncfl.org/help or by calling 2-1-1.

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