State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) Program

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Agenda

• Funding Overview and Eligibility

• MHDC SAFHR Program
  • Direct Financial Assistance
  • Housing Stability SAFHR Program
Funding Overview

• COVID-19 Economic Relief bill signed December 27, 2020
• Included $25 billion in emergency rental assistance, Missouri allocated $408 million
• No less than 90 percent of funding for direct rent and for utility assistance and up to 10 percent for housing stability services and administration
• Administered by U.S. Department of the Treasury
• Must meet Treasury Department reporting and data collection requirements
• Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2021
Funding Overview

• States as well as cities and counties with populations over 200,000 eligible for funding

• Counties administering funds:
  • Clay, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, St. Louis

• Cities administering funds:
  • Kansas City, St. Louis

• MHDC administering ~$320 million through State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) Program
Eligibility

- Households with income at or below 80 percent of area median income (AMI)
- One or more individual in household receives unemployment or attests to financial hardship due to pandemic
- One or more individual in household demonstrates risk of homelessness or housing instability
- Federal priorities
  - Households with one or more member currently unemployed and unemployed for most recent 90 days
  - Households below 50 percent of AMI
SAFHR Program Phases

• February 2021
  • Online tenant application for direct financial assistance (in collaboration with landlord)
  • Post Housing stability services RFP

• March 2021
  • Online application for landlords with multiple eligible tenants for direct assistance (in collaboration with tenant)
  • Engage with housing stability case management and legal services providers
  • Provide offline application option
Direct Financial Assistance

• No less than 90 percent on direct financial assistance
• Assistance for period beginning April 1, 2020
• Available assistance
  • Up to 12 months of rental arrears
  • Up to 12 months of utility assistance per eligible service
  • Up to 3 months of forward rent assistance
• Total assistance cannot exceed 12 months
• Payments made directly to landlord and/or utility companies
SAFHR Direct Assistance Application

1. Pre-Application: review materials and confirm eligibility
2. Eligibility checklist: create account, certify household meets program criteria
3. Tenant Portion of Application: provide required information on household, income, and requested assistance
4. Landlord Portion of Application: provide contact and payment information
SAFHR Direct Assistance Application

• Required documentation*
  • Head of household photo ID
  • Demonstration of receipt of unemployment or reduction in income or significant costs due to pandemic
  • Proof of participation in means tested federal program or supporting income documentation
  • Demonstration of past-due rent or eviction notice
  • Utility invoice or quote

*Subject to Department of the Treasury guidance
Housing Stability Services

• Up to 10 percent housing stability services and administration
• Housing stability service providers invited to respond via RFP
• Services related to pandemic, keep households stably housed
• Case management and eviction prevention services
• Tiered payment structure based on services provided
• Assist tenants in completing SAFHR direct financial assistance applications
www.mohousingresources.com/safhr