



## CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Program – Talking Points

### **Background: California leads nation in assistance and protection for renters**

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- Governor Newsom signed SB 91, establishing the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program, allocating \$2.6 billion in federal rent assistance.
- SB 91 extends eviction protections to June 30, 2021.
- These efforts will enable low income households most impacted by the pandemic to stay in their homes and prevent displacement which will be crucial to an equitable recovery.

### **Overview: Program supports housing stability for most vulnerable**

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- CA COVID-19 Rent Relief provides financial assistance to income-qualified tenants experiencing housing instability.
- The program provides rent reimbursement to landlords for unpaid rent accrued between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.
- Landlords are eligible to receive 80% of unpaid rent, as long as they agree to waive the remaining 20% of unpaid rent.
- Eligible tenants whose landlords don't participate in the program can still receive 25% of unpaid rent accrued between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021.
- Paying the 25% of past due rent by June 30, 2021 can help keep you in your home under the extended eviction protections provided in SB91.
- Eligible tenants can also receive future rent assistance equal to 25% of their monthly rent.
- Verify eligibility and apply starting March 15, 2021 at [HousingIsKey.com](https://HousingIsKey.com).

### **Qualification Criteria: Relief provided to both eligible landlords and tenants**

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- Landlords who have one or more eligible tenants who have unpaid rent accrued from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
- Tenants who are at or below 80% of the Area Median Income, who have incurred a financial hardship due to COVID-19 and are experiencing housing instability.
- If eligible, either a landlord or a tenant can initiate the application process.
- Applicants will not be asked about their citizenship, nor will they be required to show proof of citizenship.
- The CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program is available to all eligible applicants starting [Monday, March 15](#), however applications submitted from households at the greatest risk of eviction will be prioritized first.
  - Greatest risk of eviction is understood based on a tenant's ability to pay the minimum 25% rent owed, the household's AMI, and if the household is located in an area disproportionately impacted by Covid-19.

### **Resources Available: Person-centered program helps eligible households get help quickly**

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- Resources and application information are available at [HousingIsKey.com](https://HousingIsKey.com).
- A statewide network of local community partners has been established to help answer eligibility questions and submit applications. A list is available at [HousingIsKey.com](https://HousingIsKey.com).
- A CA COVID-19 Rent Relief call center is available to get help answering eligibility questions, for application assistance, and to provide information on local assistance: 1-833-430-2122 between 7 am and 7 pm daily.

### **How to Apply**

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- Tenants and landlords can determine eligibility and apply for funds directly at [HousingIsKey.com](https://HousingIsKey.com).
- If you don't have access to the internet, you can call the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief Call Center, 1-833-430-2122 for information on the help center nearest to you to help you access an application.