

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The spread of COVID 19 throughout communities in the United States has been far reaching and rapid. Along with the spread of the disease, additional impacts in response to the spread have left the most vulnerable of populations in economic jeopardy. This economic hardship runs parallel with the health crisis our country, state, and communities are facing.

Working class families, Seniors, and communities of color are disproportionately affected by the virus but also bear the brunt of the economic fallout from the pandemic. New Orleans, LA and Chicago, IL are both epicenters of high percentages of minority deaths due to COVID 19; pre-existing conditions such as diabetes, obesity as well as increased risk due to exposure in “gig economy” and service industry are all factors that contribute to the death toll in vulnerable communities. With Governor Ivey’s “Safer at Home” order that is still mildly in effect, the ability for working class families, particularly in the service industry and gig economy were severely hampered. The need for temporary relief for families who have been furloughed, hours reduced, businesses closed and laid off are critical not only for families who are ill from COVID 19 but those who are suffering from the economic fallout of COVID 19 related market changes.

Jefferson County, Alabama seeks to answer the call for help. They have done so by partnering with organizations as Neighborhood Housing Services of Birmingham to aid in doing so. The purpose of this program is to:

1. Provide short term assistance and immediate relief for renters and landlords.
 - a. (Qualified applicants may receive up to 15 months of assistance.)
2. Educate families on housing options and Fair Housing practices
3. Preserve investment for existing homeowners through foreclosure prevention counseling.
4. Preserve recipient’s credit by combating eviction.
5. Prevent homelessness.

Program recipients MUST provide (All applicable documents):

- Completed intake package
- Proof of hardship
- Unemployment benefits
- Pay stubs from reduced hours
- Furlough documentation
- Lease (First and last pages)
- W9 from landlord
- Complete a one hour education workshop via Zoom

Recipient MUST meet the income requirements and cannot live in the City of Birmingham, but within Jefferson County.

COVID-19 Hardship Certification

Date: _____

Property: _____

Unit Number: _____

Lease Expiration Date: _____

Leaseholders: _____

In order to be considered for a the COVID-19 hardship program, **please complete this form** by checking the boxes that apply to each leaseholder(s) and **please submit documentation** (such as letter from employer, healthcare provider, or other documentation) which verifies a financial hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hardship: Y/N

(This Section is required)

Check Here	Leaseholder Names (list all names):	Reason
		Experienced job loss or unemployment due to COVID-19 pandemic.
		Income or hours have been reduced, or self-employed business earnings have been reduced.
		Household financial circumstances have changed as a result of COVID-19, example: death in the household, serious or chronic illness.
		There are other reasons explained below that relate to the COVID-19 pandemic that have created a hardship on one or more leaseholders.

Explanation/details:

Leaseholder Acknowledgement, and Agreement

I certify, acknowledge, and agree:

1) All of the information in this Hardship Certification is truthful and the event(s) identified above has/have contributed to my need for lease rental assistance.

2) The Landlord may review the accuracy of my statements and the supporting documentation. I am willing to provide all requested documents and respond to all landlord communication in a timely manner. I understand that time is of the essence.

3) Knowingly submitting false information may violate applicable laws.

4) If I have intentionally defaulted on my existing rental agreement, engaged in fraud or misrepresented any fact(s) in connection with this Hardship Certification, or if I do not provide all of the required documentation, the Landlord may not offer me a loss mitigation option and may pursue eviction proceedings and collection of all past due rent and fees.

5) The Landlord will use this information to evaluate my eligibility for loss mitigation options, but the Landlord may not be obligated to offer me assistance based solely on the representations in this Hardship Certification.

In signing below, I am stating I understand and agree to all terms above.

Leaseholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

Leaseholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

Leaseholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

Leaseholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

Leaseholder Signature: _____ Date: _____

Or Email to help@nhsbham.org

Hardship Certification Review

Regional Supervisor (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved
<input type="checkbox"/>	Denied

Notes:

Regional Supervisor

Signature: _____

Date: _____