

# INFORMATION FOR RENTERS



IndianaHousingNow.org

## INDIANA EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (IERA) PROGRAM

The Indiana Emergency Rental Assistance (IERA) program is designed to decrease evictions, increase housing stability, and prevent homelessness by helping renter households whose income has been negatively impacted by COVID-19 with rent and utility assistance.

IERA can provide you with up to 12 months of rental assistance. Qualifying applicants may also receive utility and/or home energy assistance. This includes help with paying past due utilities (electric, gas, water, sewer, and trash) and home energy (fuel oil, wood, coal, pellets, and propane) expenses.

### A renter household should know:

- IERA will pay the lesser of the lease rent amount or the published IERA rental limit
- Elkhart County, Hamilton County, Lake County, Marion County, St. Joseph County, and the City of Fort Wayne have their own programs. If you live in these areas, you will need to apply directly to your community's program and not the IERA program:

Location	Website
Elkhart County	<a href="http://elkhartcounty.com/rentalassistance">elkhartcounty.com/rentalassistance</a>
Hamilton County	<a href="http://HCTAIndiana.com">HCTAIndiana.com</a>
Lake County	<a href="http://LakeCountyIN.care">LakeCountyIN.care</a>
Marion County	<a href="http://indyrent.org">indyrent.org</a>
St. Joseph County	<a href="http://sjcindiana.com">sjcindiana.com</a>
City of Fort Wayne	<a href="http://fwcares.org">fwcares.org</a>

- Up to 12 months of rent and utility and/or home energy assistance may be provided. This includes past due balances and late fees accrued after April 1, 2020

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- If you already receive federal rental assistance (e.g., you have a Housing Choice Voucher, live in a Project Based Rental Assistance unit, live in Public Housing, etc.), IERA can provide assistance for the tenant portion of the rent
- Any amount of rent not covered by IERA is your responsibility to pay to the landlord
- Past due utilities and home energy expenses may be paid in full for balances accumulated after April 1, 2020 through the date your application is approved for assistance
- Any unpaid utility or home energy obligations, including disconnect or reconnect fees, deposits, and forward-facing bills is your responsibility
- Utility and/or home energy assistance may not be provided for costs included in the lease
- If you qualify, you can receive assistance even if your landlord or utility/home energy provider refuses to participate in the IERA program
- A benefit letter from an approved program will help speed up the review of your application

### To participate in the program, you should:

- Go to [IndianaHousingNow.org](https://IndianaHousingNow.org) to apply
- Apply using an email address that can be accessed easily and frequently
- Check your email often after applying and respond to requests as quickly as you can
- Work with IERA staff to provide requested documentation including, but not limited to, proof of income and COVID-19 impact

### What should I do now?

**STEP 1:** Speak to your landlord and let them know you intend to or have applied for assistance.

**STEP 2:** Review the IERA FAQ and Assistance Examples information documents available at [IndianaHousingNow.org](https://IndianaHousingNow.org).

**STEP 3:** Access the link and apply for assistance at [IndianaHousingNow.org](https://IndianaHousingNow.org). If you are unable to complete the application online, please call 2-1-1 for assistance completing and submitting your application over the phone.

**STEP 4:** Please email [iera@ihcda.in.gov](mailto:iera@ihcda.in.gov) if you have any questions.

[IndianaHousingNow.org](https://IndianaHousingNow.org)



We encourage and support the nation's affirmative housing program in which there are no barriers to obtaining housing because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status. This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ERA0021 awarded to the State of Indiana by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

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