

INFORMATION FOR UTILITY AND HOME ENERGY PROVIDERS



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 renters whose income has been negatively impacted by the pandemic with rent and utility assistance.

IERA can provide eligible renters with up to 18 months of rent, utility, and home energy assistance. Utility assistance may be provided to qualifying applicants for electric, gas, water, and sewer service as well as home energy costs. Please encourage renters in need of assistance to apply at **IndianaHousingNow.org**. Assistance payments for approved applications will be directed to participating utility or home energy providers.

A utility or home energy provider should know:

- Hamilton and Marion Counties, along with the City of Fort Wayne will be administering their own programs.
- Up to 18 months of utility and/or home energy assistance may be provided.
- A monthly stipend will be provided for utility/ home energy expenses for every month of rental assistance a household receives. Below is the chart outlining the utility types and funding amounts.

	0 Bedrooms	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom	5+ Bedroom
Heating - Natural Gas	24	32	43	52	66	75
Heating - Electric	55	78	102	123	152	170
Heating - Home Energy	58	77	103	128	166	178
Electric - Other than Heating	49	57	65	73	83	91
Water	29	36	46	56	70	88
Sewer	54	54	62	71	86	109

- IERA is unable to pay deposits, disconnect fees, or reconnect fees.
- Any unpaid utility and/or home energy obligation, including deposits and disconnect or reconnect fees, is the responsibility of the renter.



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.

Last updated March 17, 2022

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- Utility and/or home energy assistance may not be provided for costs included in the lease.
- Utility or home energy assistance may not be provided for utility bills in the name of a party not listed on the lease as a tenant or occupant.
- A utility or home energy provider must provide an ACH and W-9 form to receive direct payments.
- IERA will no longer issue direct payments to tenants with non-participating providers. Utility providers must participate for payment to be issued.
- Renter households that received assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) **are** eligible to receive utility and/or home energy assistance.

To participate in the program, a utility or home energy provider should:

- Encourage customers to apply for assistance at **IndianaHousingNow.org** using an email address they can easily access on a regular basis.
- Provide your payment information, including an ACH and W-9, via the vendor portal located at **IndianaHousingNow.org** or directly to IERA Staff.
- Return electronic communications concerning applicants and provide requested information as quickly as possible.

What should I do now?

- STEP 1:** Reach out to customers that have fallen behind on their utility and/or home energy bills.
- STEP 2:** Share with them our Renter Information Page and encourage them to visit **IndianaHousingNow.org** and apply for the IERA program.
- STEP 3:** Review the IERA FAQ and assistance examples posted on IHEDA's **Emergency Rental Assistance** page.
- STEP 4:** Please email **iera@ihcda.in.gov** if you have any questions.

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