

Stark County Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What will the ERA program pay for?

The Stark County ERA program will potentially pay for:

- Rental arrears dating back to March 13, 2020 not to exceed 12 months
- The security deposit and first month's rent at a new residence
- Legal mediation and/or services related to a potential or impending eviction

Who is the ERA program for?

The Stark County ERA program is for renter households in which one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

- 1.) Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19,
- 2.) Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and,
- 3.) Has a household income at or below 80% of the area median income. (Households at or below 50%, or in receipt of SNAP benefits, will be prioritized for assistance.)

When can I apply for the ERA program?

The Stark County ERA program will begin accepting applications on Monday, April 12, 2021.

What will I need to provide to apply for the ERA program?

- 1.) Proof of identity,
- 2.) A completed ERA application (ERA001),
- 3.) Verification of the most recent month's income, or their 2020 Adjusted Gross Income (from tax filing),
- 4.) Verification of the COVID-19 -related hardship,
- 5.) Verification of the monthly rental fee delinquency or the need for assistance with a security deposit and first month's rent payment; and,
- 6.) Completed W-9 Substitute Tax and Automatic Deposit forms from the landlord

How do I apply for the ERA program?

The ERA application packet may be submitted to Stark County Job & Family Services by one of four methods:

Via the United States Postal Service (USPS), by drop off at Stark County Job & Family Services' Midtown Plaza location at 221 3rd Street S.E., Canton, OH 44702 using either the agency drop-box at the front of the building or the front desk, by e-mail to: Stark_Rental@jfs.ohio.gov or by fax to: 330-451-8925.

How will my application for the ERA program be processed?

Applications will be gathered daily by SCJFS employees with the intent to process all applications within 30 days of receipt to the highest extent possible. Eligibility will be predicated on the tenant's ability to demonstrate that they meet all eligibility criteria. Those households at or below 50% of the area median income will be prioritized.

How will I learn if my application for the ERA program is approved?

When a determination of eligibility has been made on an ERA application, SCJFS shall mail or otherwise deliver a Disposition Notice (ERA006) to both the tenant and landlord which includes information specific to the approved or denied direct benefit and notification of the applicant's County Conference rights.