

# Stark County Job & Family Services

HUMAN SERVICES - CHILDREN SERVICES - CHILD SUPPORT

221 3<sup>rd</sup> Street S.E., Canton, Ohio 44702

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## STARK JFS OFFERS RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC

**Canton, Ohio** - Stark County Job and Family Services is pleased to announce that rental assistance will be available through the Division of Human Services beginning Monday, April 12, 2021. The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program is a federally funded program that can assist residents who have been impacted by the pandemic with rental expenses.

Assistance through this program is available to active renters in Stark County. One or more members of the household must qualify for unemployment or have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19.

Eligible renters must be able to provide evidence of homelessness or housing instability, and their household income must fall below 80% of the area median income. The ERA Program recognizes the urgent need for assistance among individuals and families with a household income below 50% of the area median income and recipients of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. These households will be prioritized for assistance.

The ERA Program can potentially be used to pay rental arrears dating back to March 13, 2020, not to exceed 12 months. In limited situations, the program may be able to assist with moving into a new residence. All payments will be made directly to the landlord or property owner.

Renters must provide the following items with their application:

- A completed ERA Program application (ERA001);
- Verification of the most recent month's income, or 2020 Adjusted Gross Income (from tax filing);
- Verification of the hardship caused by COVID-19;
- Verification of the monthly rental fee delinquency or the need for assistance with first month's rent and security deposit; and
- Completed W-9 Substitute Tax and Automatic Deposit forms from the landlord.

Completed applications should be submitted by email to [Stark\\_Rental@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Stark_Rental@jfs.ohio.gov), faxed to 330-451-8925, sent by U.S. mail, or delivered in-person to Stark County Job and Family Services, Midtown Plaza, 221 3<sup>rd</sup> St. S.E., Canton, OH 44702. Packages can be dropped off at the customer service counter during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The agency offers an outdoor, no-contact drop box near the front entrance that can be accessed at all hours.

When a determination has been made on an application, a disposition notice (ERA006) will be delivered to both the tenant and the landlord. This will include information specific to the approved or denied direct benefit and notification of the applicant's County Conference rights.

To request an application package, please call 330-451-RENT (7368), email [Stark\\_Rental@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Stark_Rental@jfs.ohio.gov), or visit [www.StarkJFS.org](http://www.StarkJFS.org).

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