



LAST UPDATE 04 OCTOBER 21

## **SAFHR FAQs**

### **What is SAFHR For Renters?**

The State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) for Renters program provides rent and utility assistance for eligible Missouri residents who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible tenants can apply for financial assistance to be paid directly to their landlord or utility provider. Financial assistance includes rent and utility arrears for the period beginning April 2020, prepaid fuel assistance and up to 3 months of forward rent. Utilities include gas, electric, water, sewage/wastewater, fuel (propane, wood, etc.) and trash. You may apply for utility assistance even if you are not applying for rental assistance.

### **What results has SAFHR produced?**

The COVID-related SAFHR rental and utility relief we are providing is critical to helping keep Missouri families safer in their homes. To date, MHDC has enabled more than 14,000 Missouri families to remain in their homes through nearly \$85 million in rental assistance. More on the program and its results are available at the [SAFHR Dashboard](#) website.

### **Is the ban on evictions still in place?**

On August 26, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected the latest Federal moratorium on evictions. MHDC is working with housing stability service providers to assist applicants with the SAFHR application and provide other eviction diversion services. MHDC also works with a network of over 60 non-profits throughout the state that provide services to people who are homeless and at-risk of homelessness. MHDC also coordinates with seven other local jurisdictions that are working in their communities to provide direct rental assistance. A list of these are here: [mohousingresources.com/local-resources](http://mohousingresources.com/local-resources).

### **How is MHDC making it easier to apply for assistance?**

The COVID-related SAFHR rental and utility relief we are providing is critical to helping keep Missouri families safer in their homes. The SAFHR program is about ten times larger than any assistance program MHDC has ever administered, and our experience over the last several months has led to numerous improvements which are making it easier for families to apply.

Specifically, MHDC has simplified the SAFHR applications process by:



- reducing the amount of documentation required for renters to provide—based on guidance from U.S. Department of Treasury, which now allows for income and COFID impact self-certification instead of requiring document uploads; and
- reducing processing time to less than 10 days from application to approval, cutting the waiting time in half from early summer.

### **How much financial assistance has MHDC provided to Missourians?**

In addition to the seven local jurisdictions serving the most populated cities and counties in Missouri, MHDC has awarded nearly **\$85 million** in federal COVID-19 housing relief, about **ten times the normal amount** of assistance MHDC provides over such a period. That's over \$19 million a month or nearly \$1.7 million a week in assistance to renters in need.

### **Am I eligible?**

You are likely eligible if you are a renter in living in Missouri with income that is <80% of your area's median income, and behind on your rent.

### **How do I apply?**

Apply in as little as 15 minutes at [mohousingresources.com/safhr](http://mohousingresources.com/safhr) with just a few documents (a copy of your lease, a photo ID, any past-due rent statement(s) and/or utility bill(s) you need assistance with) and answers to eligibility questions. If you can't apply online or need assistance, find an HSSA in your area at [mohousingresources.com/safhr-renters-agencies](http://mohousingresources.com/safhr-renters-agencies). Applications are open and expected to remain open for several years.

### **What is the status of my SAFHR application?**

Applicants are notified by email when the application is submitted, if additional information is needed and when it is approved. If you need additional status updates you can call 833-541-1599 or email [mo.safhr.application@mhdc.com](mailto:mo.safhr.application@mhdc.com).

### **What is MHDC?**

Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC or the Commission) is dedicated to strengthening communities and the lives of Missourians through the financing, development and preservation of affordable housing.

MHDC was created in 1969 by the Missouri General Assembly. It administers, and provides financing for, the construction of affordable housing. The Commission also provides funding for home loans to qualified, first-time buyers through a network of certified, private mortgage lenders. Mortgage financing is facilitated through the sale of mortgage-backed securities and through the sale of tax-exempt bonds that the Commission is authorized to issue.



The Commission administers the federal and Missouri Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) programs, the Affordable Housing Assistance Program Tax Credit (AHAP), federal HOME funds, and the direct funding of several housing assistance programs. Further, the Commission administers homeless assistance funds for permanent housing in an effort to end homelessness in Missouri. The Commission also provides advisory, consultative, training, and educational services to non-profit housing organizations.

For more information on MHDC programs please visit [www.mhdc.com](http://www.mhdc.com).

**Where can I get more information?**

You may call 833-541-1599, email [mo.safhr@mhdc.com](mailto:mo.safhr@mhdc.com), or use the chat feature built into the online application platform.