



State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) Program

Jenni Miller, Manager of HUD Programs
Jennifer Schmidt, Deputy Director of Operations

Agenda

- Funding Overview and Eligibility
- MHDC SAFHR Program
 - Direct Financial Assistance
 - Housing Stability SAFHR Program



Funding Overview

- COVID-19 Economic Relief bill signed December 27, 2020
- Included \$25 billion in emergency rental assistance, Missouri allocated \$408 million
- No less than 90 percent of funding for direct rent and for utility assistance and up to 10 percent for housing stability services and administration
- Administered by U.S. Department of the Treasury
- Must meet Treasury Department reporting and data collection requirements
- Funds must be obligated by September 30, 2021



Funding Overview

- States as well as cities and counties with populations over 200,000 eligible for funding
- Counties administering funds:
 - Clay, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, St. Louis
- Cities administering funds:
 - Kansas City, St. Louis
- MHDC administering ~\$320 million through State Assistance for Housing Relief (SAFHR) Program



Eligibility

- Households with income at or below 80 percent of area median income (AMI)
- One or more individual in household receives unemployment or attests to financial hardship due to pandemic
- One or more individual in household demonstrates risk of homelessness or housing instability
- Federal priorities
 - Households with one or more member currently unemployed and unemployed for most recent 90 days
 - Households below 50 percent of AMI



SAFHR Program Phases

- February 2021
 - Online tenant application for direct financial assistance (in collaboration with landlord)
 - Post Housing stability services RFP
- March 2021
 - Online application for landlords with multiple eligible tenants for direct assistance (in collaboration with tenant)
 - Engage with housing stability case management and legal services providers
 - Provide offline application option



Direct Financial Assistance

- No less than 90 percent on direct financial assistance
- Assistance for period beginning April 1, 2020
- Available assistance
 - Up to 12 months of rental arrears
 - Up to 12 months of utility assistance per eligible service
 - Up to 3 months of forward rent assistance
- Total assistance cannot exceed 12 months
- Payments made directly to landlord and/or utility companies



SAFHR Direct Assistance Application

1. Pre-Application: review materials and confirm eligibility
2. Eligibility checklist: create account, certify household meets program criteria
3. Tenant Portion of Application: provide required information on household, income, and requested assistance
4. Landlord Portion of Application: provide contact and payment information



SAFHR Direct Assistance Application

- Required documentation*
 - Head of household photo ID
 - Demonstration of receipt of unemployment or reduction in income or significant costs due to pandemic
 - Proof of participation in means tested federal program or supporting income documentation
 - Demonstration of past-due rent or eviction notice
 - Utility invoice or quote

*Subject to Department of the Treasury guidance



Housing Stability Services

- Up to 10 percent housing stability services and administration
- Housing stability service providers invited to respond via RFP
- Services related to pandemic, keep households stably housed
- Case management and eviction prevention services
- Tiered payment structure based on services provided
- Assist tenants in completing SAFHR direct financial assistance applications





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