

**\*\*IMPORTANT CHANGE\*\* DC CARES Program shifts focus to Homeless Prevention  
EFFECTIVE Noon 7.22.2020**



All of us at the Tenant Resource Center (TRC) are working diligently to meet the immense volume of calls, emails, and applications that we have received since the opening of the Dane County CARES rental assistance program on June 15th, 2020. Having worked for Housing Justice for the past 40+ years throughout Wisconsin we have never seen such unprecedented need. We take this work with great seriousness and know that 1000s of tenants throughout our community are struggling with their housing.

In this first month of the DC CARES program, our call center has taken over 10,000 calls, 1,000s of emails and received over 5,000 applications. There have been successes and missteps along the way, without doubt - each day we learn and we work to do better. The demand has far exceeded the amount of funds currently available. We know that without additional significant financial support for rental assistance that the result will be an exponential increase in homelessness --both in our community and across our nation. Unlike leases...this pandemic has no end date. At noon today, alongside County Exec Parisi, we called upon the federal government to step forward and show that people matter. That housing matters....because Housing is a Human right.

Due to the demand, we will not be able to fulfill every request for rental assistance - particularly those for August rent. Additionally, as the Federal Moratorium ends this week, we anticipate another surge in applications and evictions being filed. Partners throughout the community and at the County level are aware of this development. We are all working together to provide emergency support to keep in housing, fed and safe. It's easy to get lost in the difficulty of the work but we recognize the massive efforts happening all around us in addition to the work we are doing - thank you, one and all, for everything being done to support our community members.

At this time, we will need to stop taking requests for future rental assistance. We will shift our focus to the existing applications within the system and those that will likely be submitted in the coming days/ weeks for those with active eviction cases that have been filed.

We will not be shutting the application process down at this time, but will be prioritizing households that are at the highest risk of homelessness (specifically those with an eviction filing or a stipulation that is in default). Applicants at highest risk (who opt in) will be paired with one of our Eviction Prevention Clinic Specialists to expedite the process so as to ensure housing stability.

**All of the services we provide beyond rental assistance are still available.** If you need assistance with mediation between yourself and your landlord (or tenant) please don't hesitate to reach out either via phone (608-257-0006 x8) or by filling out this [short form](#).

If you have a question about your rights or responsibilities as a tenant or a landlord please don't hesitate to call 608.257.0006 or email us at [AskTRC@tenantresourcecenter.org](mailto:AskTRC@tenantresourcecenter.org) [ENGLISH] or Se Habla Español: 608-257-0006 x1 -- [preguntas@tenantresourcecenter.org](mailto:preguntas@tenantresourcecenter.org)

**CARES Program UPDATES 7.18.2020** [see attached for full stats]:

- Applications received: 5700+
- Rental Assistance Authorized: \$4,677,665.93
- Rental Assistance Requested: \$9,733,299.78
- Over 88% of applicants report job/income loss
- We've had over 1100 requests for housing counseling, mediation and assistance with applications
- The average amount of monthly rent needed is 4.75 months
- Only 3% of applicants are receiving unemployment benefits
- Approximately 40% are in the eviction process
- Assistance has been provided in the following municipalities: Belleville, Black Earth, Blue Mounds, Cottage Grove, Cross Plains, Deerfield, DeForest, Fitchburg, Madison, Marshall, Mazomanie, McFarland, Middleton, Monona, Mount Horeb, New Glarus, Oregon, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee and Windsor

**CARES program Eligibility:**

1. Residents of Dane County
2. COVID-19 Economic Hardship
3. Household Income  $\leq$  80% AMI
4. Adult (18+)

**CARES Eligible costs (as of 7.22.2020):**

- Verified rental arrears (totaling no more than 4 months of rent)

**Documents required (as of 7.22.2020):**

- W9 (filled out/signed by property owner/agent)
- Updated Landlord agreement stating back owed rent (filled out and signed by landlord)  
*[ see attached ]*
- Copy of eviction notice, hearing date or stipulation