



## **May 2021 UPDATE**

The NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program launched on March 15, when the state's five Community Action Partnership agencies began accepting applications. The program assists eligible residents who cannot pay their rent and utilities due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NHERAP assistance may cover: Past-due and future rent payments; utilities, such as electricity, home heating costs, water, sewer, trash; and other housing-related costs such as internet and relocation expenses associated directly or indirectly with COVID-19. Relocation expenses including rental application fees, utility hook-up fees, and security deposits also are eligible. The assistance grants are paid directly to the landlord or utility provider on behalf of the household.

**In the first eight weeks of the program, \$12 million was paid to landlords, utility companies, and other vendors on behalf of eligible applicants.**

The CAP agencies are working diligently to review and approve applications as quickly as possible. The time required to process an application varies and is dependent on how complete the submitted application is, how complex the application is, and how many parties need to be contacted to verify information.

Since the Emergency Rental Assistance Program is a federal program with detailed eligibility standards, the statute and rules creating the program place substantial reporting and other obligations on the states. In order to ensure that the applicant is eligible for these funds, much of the data submitted in the applications must be verified. When landlords and applicants are able to work together on the applications, the review process is often streamlined.

**Details about the program and eligibility, FAQs and a toolkit** can be found here:

[www.nhhfa.org/emergency-rental-assistance](http://www.nhhfa.org/emergency-rental-assistance)

The **NHERAP Data Dashboard**, presented by the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery, provides an overview of program applications and expenditures.