

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2022

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (ERA) PROGRAM TO CLOSE AUGUST 5

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Job and Family Services has announced that the Covid-19 Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program will close on August 5, 2022. The ERA Program is a federally funded program that was implemented in early 2021 to assist residents impacted by the pandemic with rental expenses. Eligible renters should submit their application by 4 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2022. All applications submitted after 4 p.m. will be denied.

Assistance through the ERA Program is available to all 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.

Applicants 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.

Funds received through this 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 can be submitted by email to 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 3rd 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.

Applications can be downloaded from our website at StarkJFS.org. To request an application packet by mail, please call 330-451-RENT (7368) or email Stark_Rental@jfs.ohio.gov.

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