

# IOWA RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



## IOWA RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CLOSURE

The Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program funded by federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) will stop accepting applications on Aug. 30, 2022. **The last month of eligible assistance through the program is August.**

The Iowa Rent and Utility Assistance Program was created to provide temporary, short-term emergency rental assistance to ensure stable housing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was funded by the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 through the U.S. Department of Treasury and includes a program spending deadline of Sept. 30, 2022.

The program portal will close to new applications on Aug. 30 at 5:00 p.m. After that time, no new or renewal applications will be accepted.

Iowa was one of the first states in the nation to launch a program to assist Iowans in staying in their homes at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Governor Reynolds allocated \$36 million in CARES Act funds, which assisted more than 17,000 Iowans in the midst of the unprecedented public health emergency. In total, nearly \$170 million in assistance has been granted to Iowans in need of rent and utility assistance.

The Iowa Finance Authority received an allocation of Emergency Rental Assistance 2 Program funds through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. These funds will be used in targeted efforts to assist identified vulnerable populations, including assisting Iowans who have experienced homelessness to get rapidly rehoused and achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

**If I submitted an application prior to 5:00 p.m. on Aug. 30, will I be able to continue to access my application, check status and add additional documentation, if necessary?**

Yes, the portal will only close to new requests for assistance at 5:00 p.m. on Aug. 30. All complete applications submitted before that time will be reviewed.

**What other programs and resources are available to help Iowans?**

### *Legal*

If you are at imminent risk of eviction or utility disconnection and need legal assistance, Iowa Legal Aid may be able to assist you at no cost. Learn more [here](#).

### *Employment*

The State of Iowa offers a variety of resources to assist Iowans with re-entering the workforce. These services include resume writing assistance, training programs and real-time job listings, including temporary jobs available for COVID-19 impacted workers.

Please review the job listings and resources below and contact an [IowaWORKS Center](#) in your area to obtain assistance with your job search.

[Explore Job Postings](#)

[Training & Education](#)

## IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY

1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200  
Des Moines, Iowa 50315

### **Utility Assistance**

Iowans in need of utility assistance should reach out to their local Community Action Agency to learn more about the [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#). The annual application period runs from November 1 through April 30, with early applications accepted during October for households with a member that is either disabled or at least 60 years old.

In addition to providing assistance to eligible households with a one-time payment on their heating bill, LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) also has a crisis component to assist with:

- Emergency delivery of deliverable fuel (liquid propane, wood, corn, etc.)
- Emergency reconnection of electric, natural gas, and water
- Averting disconnection of electric, natural gas, and water (water service disconnection notice required)
- Emergency cooling assistance (fans, window/portable air conditioners, repair of central air units)

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) can assist with reconnections and averting disconnection of water and wastewater services but cannot cover trash removal costs.

Households should not apply under both programs (IRUAP) simultaneously and should avoid duplication of benefits.

### **Local Housing Assistance**

Iowans in need of assistance are encouraged to call 2-1-1 for available resources in their area.

### **Housing Locator Assistance**

Iowans in need of assistance finding an affordable rental may utilize [Iowa Housing Search](#).