



INDIANA COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

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To Whom It May Concern:

We are reaching out to you to help us share information with residents of Indiana County on the new Emergency Rent/Utility Assistance Program.

The Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which passed in December 2020 included funding for states to establish Emergency Rental Assistance Programs. Pennsylvania received approximately \$569 million to administer assistance to renters, landlords, and utility providers who have been affected by the pandemic and economic insecurity.

On February 5, 2021, Governor Wolf signed S.B. 109 into law, which officially designated the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) as the agency overseeing administration of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Indiana County has been awarded \$5,529,506.73. Monies must be spent between now and the end of December 2021, with 65% of total allotment being allocated by July 31, 2021. The county has entered an agreement with the Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc. (ICCAP) to administer and deliver the services of the ERAP.

The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to eligible households to pay rent, rental arrears, utilities, utility arrears, and other related housing expenses incurred due, directly or indirectly, to COVID-19.

There are specific eligibility requirements including income eligibility requirements. For example, 80% Average Median Income for 4 in household-\$51,900. Applications will be prioritized by 30%, 50% and 80% Average Median Income. Contact ICCAP at 724-465-2657 for more information.

Renters, landlords, and utility providers can apply. Applications can be accessed on-line on COMPASS at www.compass.state.pa.us. For those who do not have access to a computer, you can make an appointment with ICCAP to use their computers or ask them for assistance. Hard copy applications may be sent to those who request one.

When contacting ICCAP for information or assistance, mention you are calling about the Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program. You may reach ICCAP at 724-465-2657, or at help@iccap.net. Follow updates on their Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/lccapofindianapa>.

*****ONE MORE REQUEST** that you can share with others:

Can you give us 1 minute of your time?????

ICCAP and the Indiana County Department of Human Services are conducting a short survey to see what financial impact COVID-19 has had on households in Indiana County. Go to their Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/lccapofindianapa> to link to their survey.

Please share this information with whomever you deem appropriate. Thank you in advance for helping us to get the word out about this assistance program and survey. Any questions you may have should go to ICCAP at the above-mentioned options.

Thank you!

Indiana County Community Action Program, Inc.