



Office of County Commissioners

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Emergency Rental Assistance Program

EBENSBURG, PA (March 18, 2021) - Cambria County is pleased to announce participation in a new rental assistance initiative, ERAP in partnership with the State of Pennsylvania. The ERAP is a county-directed program that offers rental assistance and housing stability services to individuals and families experiencing or at risk for homelessness due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID19). The ERAP provides assistance with Rent payments including arrearages as well as utility assistance including arrearages.

BH/ID/EI Administrator of Cambria County, Tracy Selak, explains that Cambria County is coordinating with the State to deliver assistance to families facing the risk of homelessness.

"Cambria County BH/ID/EI, on behalf of the Cambria County Commissioners, is excited to partner with the State of Pennsylvania in coordinating access to these vital emergency rental assistance dollars to those Cambria County residents who have been significantly impacted by the devastating financial impact of COVID19," said Selak. "These ERAP funds will enable Cambria County to offer a much needed lifeline to individuals and families facing the real risk of homelessness as a result of the loss of income that they rely on to meet the most basic human need of safe, secure housing for themselves and their families."

Potential Eligible Households:

1. A household of one or more individuals who are obligated to pay rent on a residential dwelling

That one or more individuals within the household has:

a. qualified for unemployment benefits,

b. experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19, which the applicant shall attest in writing.

c. That one or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, which may include: i. a past due utility or rent notice or eviction notice; ii. unsafe or unhealthy living conditions; or iii. any other evidence of such risk

How to Apply: Interested applicants can apply online via the Pennsylvania DHS COMPASS System <https://www.compass.state.pa.us> or by applying in person or contacting the Cambria County Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention Program in person at 110 Franklin Street Suite 300 Johnstown, PA 15901 or dialing (814) 535-8531, Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Cambria County Commissioners Tom Chernisky, B.J. Smith and Scott Hunt are looking forward to delivering assistance to Cambria County residents who are experiencing housing instability.

“This is good news for Cambria County because if someone has lost income due to the pandemic and they are falling behind on rent and utilities this program will help people to get back on their feet and help maintain housing security for Cambria County families,” said President Commissioner Chernisky.

“Those who are suffering because they are behind on rent can call Cambria County Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities/ Early Intervention Program at (814) 535-8531 to get information about receiving rental assistance and housing stability services,” said Commissioner Smith.

“It is important that we get the word out to help as many people as we can,” said Commissioner Hunt. “Rent can be paid to landlords through the program for up to 12 months.”

Questions on this press release can be answered by Tracy Selak at (814) 535-8531.

b. experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19, which the applicant shall attest in writing.

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