



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin and City Council Members

FROM: Lorrie Pearson, AICP, Community Development Services Director
Sheila Dodd, Manager, Grants Management Division

DATE: November 5, 2020

SUBJECT: Presentation – Housing and Utility Resources Available to Urbana Residents

In response to COVID-19, a number of programs are available for rent, mortgage, utilities, and medicine to help Urbana residents. What follows are guidelines and program descriptions available at this time. Funding continues to be available through the state and federal government. Staff continues to work with service providers to identify needs and assist in funding opportunities.

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

The LIHEAP Energy Assistance Program provides up to \$1,800 in assistance and is provided through Champaign County Regional Plan Commission (RPC). Call 217-384-1226 to make an appointment. The Office is located at 1776 E Washington, Urbana. Thursdays are open for walk-in assistance. Be sure to take your most recent utility bill. www.ccrpc.org/liheap

Guidelines for the LIHEAP Program are:

A single-person household can qualify for LIHEAP with a **monthly** income for up to \$2,127, a two-person household up to \$2,873, a three-person household up to \$3,620, and a family of four up to \$4,367. Benefits are paid directly to utilities on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent. Take the following documentation to speed the process of your application:

- Proof of income for the 30-day period beginning with the date of application for all household members
- Social Security numbers for all household members
- Most recent gas and electric bill issued within the last 30 days (if they pay for their energy directly)
- If they are disconnected, a disconnection notice will be required
- Proof of disability, if applicable

If LIHEAP assistance doesn't cover your past due bill, Ameren is offering grants to people who receive LIHEAP but need more support. www.AmerenIllinois.com/Recovery or call 1-800-755-5000.

Income Guidelines for the Ameren Program



30-Day Residential Income Eligibility Guidelines*

Household/ Family Size	LIHEAP	Fresh Start	WNCF	Hardship Grants
1	\$0 - \$2,127	\$0 - \$3,722	\$2,127 - \$3,722	\$0 - \$2,127
2	\$0 - \$2,873	\$0 - \$5,028	\$2,873 - \$5,028	\$0 - \$2,873
3	\$0 - \$3,620	\$0 - \$6,335	\$3,620 - \$6,335	\$0 - \$3,620
4	\$0 - \$4,367	\$0 - \$7,642	\$4,367 - \$7,642	\$0 - \$4,367
5	\$0 - \$5,113	\$0 - \$8,948	\$5,113 - \$8,948	\$0 - \$5,113
6	\$0 - \$5,860	\$0 - \$10,255	\$5,860 - \$10,255	\$0 - \$5,860
7	\$0 - \$6,607	\$0 - \$11,562	\$6,607 - \$11,562	\$0 - \$6,607
8	\$0 - \$7,353	\$0 - \$12,868	\$7,353 - \$12,868	\$0 - \$7,353

* Eligibility based on percentage above federal poverty level. Multiply by 12 to obtain the Annual Income Eligibility.

Ameren and Illinois American Water are stopping shut-offs until March 31, 2021. However, if behind on your utility bills, contact the utility company to receive assistance.

Ameren Illinois – 1-800-755-5000

<https://www.ameren.com/illinois/residential/energy-assistance/recovery/financial>

Illinois American Water utility assistance can be reached at 1-800-422-2782. The RPC may provide water assistance for those impacted by COVID. www.ccrpc.org/covid-19-resources

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

City of Urbana Housing Programs

Subsistence payments for one to three months emergency payments on behalf of individuals or families. A grant is made available to provide funding for direct rental or mortgage assistance to those who have lost their job, been furloughed, or had their hours reduced due to COVID-19.

Eligible households include:

- Households experiencing loss of income directly related to COVID-19
- Households in good standing with the rent, mortgage, and utilities as of March 2020

- Households with incomes at or below 80% AMI

Income Guidelines for the City of Urbana Housing Assistance Program

Family Size	80% MFI
1 person	46,850
2 persons	53,550
3 persons	60,250
4 persons	66,900
5 persons	72,300
6 persons	77,650
7 persons	83,000
8 persons	88,350

Transitional Housing Program

The City of Urbana has three transitional housing single family homes available for rent to low income families. Urbana works closely with Housing Authority, Courage Connection, Cunningham Township, and other agencies for referrals to the program. The program offers single family homes to the families who are homeless or near homeless and:

- Have dependent child(ren) under age 18
- Have a documented source of income
- Have appropriate family size for unit available

For additional information, please contact sedodd@urbanaininois.us

RPC Housing Assistance

The RPC also offers a **COVID-19 Relief Program** which aims to help low-income households maintain the basic need of housing with running utilities through rent assistance, mortgage assistance, water bill assistance, and power bill assistance through the LIHEAP program. In addition to the basic needs of housing and utilities, food and prescription assistance will be provided to support physical health and well-being. The provision of prescription and medical supplies assistance will be accomplished through a partnership with **Champaign County Health Care Consumers**.

Households in Champaign County interested in applying for these programs can request assistance online at www.HelpIllinoisFamilies.com. After being referred to the RPC, an RPC staff member will contact the head of household to begin the application process.

Township Housing Assistance

Cunningham Township Bridge to Home program will provide rapid rehousing services and stabilization case management to homeless single men, women, and families residing in Urbana. This may include rent and utility assistance for 3 – 12 months depending on need.

Cunningham Township also provides the following:

- General Assistance – up to \$300 monthly support while residents look for work, retrain, apply for disability or other cash benefits
- Rental Assistance – One-time payment to avoid eviction or end homelessness
- Homeless Assistance – Help accessing available housing options, public transportation, free phones, winter coats, and more
- Food Support – Help accessing pantries, food delivery, and fresh produce
- Assistance to apply for community resources

Contact Cunningham Township at 205 W Green St., Urbana – 217-384-4144 or info@cunninghamtownship.org

Immigrant Resources are provided by YMCA at 417-5897 or laline@universityymca.org

Community members can contact 211 for help with available resources any time of the day.