



August 4, 2021

Town Bills

- Town fund = \$26,957.42
- General Assistance Fund = \$82,438.06
- TOTAL: \$109,395.48 in expenditures

General Assistance

Monthly support for Urbana residents who are disabled or out of work.

- 85 current participants (down from 86 last month)
- 25 are homeless (down from 33 last month due to a mixture of successfully housing residents and reclassification)
- 54 males / 31 females / 0 transgender or gender non-conforming

Rental Assistance

Rental assistance for Urbana households behind on rent or homeless moving into housing.

- 20 households were supported with Rental Assistance last month.
- Most applicants are being supported in applying for Emergency Rental Assistance through RPC which pays up to \$20,000 in back rent and utilities. See: <https://ccrpc.org/programs/era>
- CTSO is still processing:
 - Applicants who do not declare they are COVID impacted and therefore do not qualify for ERA.
 - Applications for move-in assistance.

Eviction Tracking & Prevention

New CTSO initiative to reduce the number of evictions in Urbana through advocacy for residents threatened with illegal or legal evictions.

- 12% of Champaign residents are behind on rent and they owe an average of \$3370, [According to a July 28 New York Times piece.](#)
- On August 3, the CDC issued a new order temporarily halting evictions through October 3 in counties with heightened levels of COVID-19 transmission, [including Champaign County](#). That said, to be covered, tenants MUST submit this declaration form to their landlord to be protected:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/EvictionProtectDeclare_508.pdf

- Champaign County started evictions on June 25, 2021 for “non covered persons” who did not submit a declaration form. We received several calls from families with children who were evicted - mostly in Champaign.
- Then effective August 1, 2021, [the Supreme Court paused for 30 days all judgments in evictions](#) against tenants who are not a direct threat and have completed a written declaration saying they should be protected by the Governor’s Moratorium.
- BUT effective August 1, 2021, the Governor’s moratorium no longer prohibits the filing of new eviction actions. Landlords may file all residential eviction cases, and initial court dates and status dates may be heard. 14 eviction cases were filed in Champaign County in three days between August 1-3 (source: Judge Olmstead)
- CTSO staff began to attend eviction court starting on August 2 to assist residents with connecting with local resources.
- COVID-19 Emergency Housing Act” (HB 2877) requires [automatic sealing of eviction records between March 2020 and March 2022](#). Unsealing will be allowed only when a judgment is issued and a case is unrelated to nonpayment of rent.
- CTSO has earned media around this issue:
 - [The sun is setting on the eviction moratorium; Here’s what you need to know to prepare \(WCIA, July 22, 2021\)](#)
 - [Reflecting on a year of financial stress and confusion, as the eviction moratorium continues - \(WCIA, August 4, 2021\)](#)

Utility Support

Utility bill support for Champaign County residents who do not qualify for other support programs.

- 46 households helped since the program began November 17, 2020

Utility type	Households served last month	Households served since Nov, 2020	Total spent
Water	5	20	\$6,858
Power	16	32	\$14,235
Total spent	21	46	\$21,093
Total raised			\$28,564

- We are experiencing a sharp increase in calls for utility assistance due to these gaps:
 - LIHEAP closed in June. Nearly half of our power support has been in the last month.

- The Emergency Rent Assistance program will only pay utilities if the resident is also behind on rent.
- Salvation Army has Ameren funds limited to those who have not used LIPHEAP and water support is limited to once per season.
- We have \$7471 left and intend to put out a fundraising call for support. Link to donate: <https://www.toi.org/township/champaign-county-cunningham-township/angel-donor-fund/>

Housing Advocacy

Housing advocacy for participants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to access all available subsidized housing opportunities, and help for homeless residents to furnish their new homes.

- 131 General Assistance participants representing 90 households received help applying to subsidized housing since our advocacy program began July 1, 2020.
- 37 households have successfully moved in or 41% of everyone helped to apply.
- The Housing Authority has received 163 vouchers for homeless residents which, along with the open waitlists for seniors and those with subsidized housing, has greatly increased the possibility of housing homeless residents.
- 9 homeless households have been assisted with the Township Housewarming, since the program began in February, 2021. They received vouchers to buy furniture and housewares at Salt and Light and Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Emergency Housing

Emergency Housing for families with children in Urbana schools of Crisis Nursery or residents with disabilities who are referred from CU at Home. [See overview](#)

- Total served to date: 30 households including 32 adults and 35 children (since July 2020)
- Currently served: 2 households
- Average stay including transfers to other emergency shelters: 41 days.
- Average stay excluding transfers: 57 days
- We have submitted a Special Use Permit application for use of 206 and 208 E. California for emergency shelter. It is scheduled for 8/5 Plan Commission, Committee of the Whole 8/16 and Council 8/23. We have a tentative move in date of August 24th.
- ~40 people showed up for our Neighborhood Meeting - [see the WCIA piece July 29, 2021](#)
- All 6 households without renewal leases were offered a \$2,000 incentive to relocate by August 15, 2021 or month to month leases through December 31, 2021. ALL 6 chose to relocate.
- We launched an [adopt an apartment program](#) and three faith based groups have signed up, along with dozens of residents who have donated based on our [wish list](#).
- We are installing all washable, hard flooring throughout the units.

- CU at Home remains closed and has announced a policy of not allowing anyone who has alcohol or drugs (including cannabis) in their system. We met with CU at Home to express our concerns that no one we serve will be able to stay at the shelter.

Bridge to Home

A rapid rehousing program providing housing stabilization and up to 12 months of rent for literally homeless individuals and families in Champaign County, referred by Centralized Intake for the Homeless.

- Last month we served 3 households with rapid rehousing services and 1 moved household into housing.
- While working on rapid rehousing provide emergency housing for these participants.