

NEWS RELEASE  
MAYOR RICK BLANGIARDI  
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Communications Office: (808) 768-5768

**City and County of Honolulu’s Rental and Utility Relief Program to  
Cease Accepting Applications on June 30**

HONOLULU – After helping more than 12,000 local families stay safely housed during the pandemic, the City’s Rental and Utility Relief Program (RURP) will cease accepting applications on Thursday, June 30 at 4:30 p.m. New applications received before Thursday, June 30 at 4:30 p.m. will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis and paid out based on the remaining funds available.

While the application portal will close at the end of the month, Catholic Charities Hawaii and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement will continue to process submitted applications and fund approved applications based on available funds.

“Helping those who are struggling to get back on their feet has been a top priority of this administration since I took office,” said Mayor Rick Blangiardi. “The emergency rental assistance program allowed thousands of our fellow residents to stay in their existing housing during the COVID-19 pandemic. A special mahalo to our partners at Catholic Charities Hawai’i and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement for playing such an integral role in helping our most vulnerable with financial support during their time of need.”

RURP’s goal has been to help as many eligible households as possible stay safely housed during the pandemic. To continue meeting this goal before closing to applications on June 30, the program is making two changes, effective immediately:

1. **Eligible new applicants** are the program’s priority. New applicants are capped at past-due rent or utility bills and three months of future rent, as long as the total relief paid is 18 months or less. Applications must be submitted before 4:30 pm on June 30 at [oneoahu.org/renthelp](https://oneoahu.org/renthelp).

- Example 1: A new applicant could qualify for 15 months of past-due rent and utilities, and also qualify for three months of additional support (18 months total).

- Example 2: A new applicant could qualify for three months of past-due rent and utilities, and also qualify for three months of additional support (6 months total).
- New applications are accepted at [oneoahu.org/renthelp](http://oneoahu.org/renthelp).

Renters are urged not to apply more than once. Duplicate applications delay processing and our ability to help our neighbors in need.

2. **Renters who have already received rent and utility relief payments** can requalify for past-due rent or utility bills and up to three months of future rent. There are two requirements:

- a. The household's current RURP rent support ends in June or earlier.
- b. Total relief paid is 18 months or less.
  - Example 1: A renter who has used 16 months of benefits can requalify for two more months (18 months total).
  - Example 2: A renter who has used three months of benefits can requalify for three more months (6 months total).

Renters currently in RURP can contact the organization managing their application to request additional support:

- Catholic Charities Hawaii: [rurphelp@catholiccharitieshawaii.org](mailto:rurphelp@catholiccharitieshawaii.org)
- Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement: [rurp@hawaiiancouncil.org](mailto:rurp@hawaiiancouncil.org)

Other eligibility rules will remain the same. Visit [oneoahu.org/renthelp](http://oneoahu.org/renthelp) for the FAQ with eligibility rules. Individuals may also call (808) 768-CITY (2489) with any questions. The City's call center is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In July, Catholic Charities Hawai'i and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement will stand up Housing Stability Services (HSS) for eligible RURP households. HSS is designed to help with case management and eviction diversion by providing housing counseling and financial literacy workshops and by serving as a referral center for other housing and social services.

Some households may qualify for other housing support and we encourage renters to explore eligibility for the following programs:

Rent Support

- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for families on the applicant waiting list, or an undivided interest lessee in the State of Hawai'i: [hawaiiancouncil.org/dhhl](http://hawaiiancouncil.org/dhhl).
- OHA's Ka Waialele Emergency Financial Assistance Program for qualified Native Hawaiians: [oha.org/emergencyaid](http://oha.org/emergencyaid).

### Utility Bills

- The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which is managed by the Honolulu Community Action Program: [hcapweb.org/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap](http://hcapweb.org/low-income-home-energy-assistance-program-liheap). Apply by June 30.
- The Federal Communication Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program can help with internet bills: apply at [fcc.gov/acp](http://fcc.gov/acp).

### Mediation & Legal Services

- Mediation is a no-cost service that can help eligible renters and landlords reach agreements on payment plans.
- Renters who have received an eviction notice for nonpayment of rent can request landlord-tenant mediation with The Mediation Center of the Pacific: [mediatehawaii.org/semf](http://mediatehawaii.org/semf) or 808-807-0080, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm.
- The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii can provide advice to renters about their rights. Contact them at 808-536-4302, Monday to Friday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m.

### Other Social Services

- For comprehensive community information and referral, call 211 for Aloha United Way or [auw.org/211](http://auw.org/211).

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