



Prior and Post Eviction Housing Stability Resources During Pandemic Crisis Recovery

*Community Services Department
General Assistance Division*

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RESOURCES FOR HOUSEHOLDS RECOVERING FROM COVID 19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP -- PRIOR TO EVICTION

General Assistance – County of El Paso

- Rent/Mortgage/Utility Assistance; 2 months maximum assistance

EP Rent Help/Emergency Rent Assistance (ERA) Program

- Rent/utility arrears, first, before assisting with current owed rent; 6 months maximum assistance in a 12 month period.

Texas Rent Relief Program

- Rent/utility arrears, first, before assisting with current owed rent; 12 months maximum assistance.

Family Independence Initiative (FII)

- County CARES funded Cash Assistance program—how much?? To apply for assistance: fund.uptogether.org/el Paso

Project Bravo

- Currently assisting with electric/gas assistance, arrears and possibly up to 6 months assistance.

Amistad

- Electric/Gas/Water

Veterans Assistance Program

- Rent/Utility and other resources specifically for Veterans.

Burial Assistance Program

- Burial cost assistance of up to \$2000/eligible household.

General Assistance (GA) – County of El Paso

(915) 775-2791

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

A Division of the Community Services Department

<http://www.epcounty.com/famcom/generalassistance.htm>

Mission: To provide a safe and healthy quality of life that enables people to thrive and reach their potential through the efficient, effective use of County community and social service programs.

- Meets the emergency rent or mortgage payment needs of El Paso County residents
- Provides emergency utility assistance
- Provides a dignified disposition of remains through the County's pauper burial program

Rent/Mortgage/Utility Assistance:

- First step is for Applicants to complete the pre-app online at above noted email address or may call the office for help.
- Applicant will receive a telephone call and an email, within 2 business days after submitting the online application, in order to begin the eligibility process; **the turnaround time from application to eligibility notification depends on the applicant providing all necessary information/documentation.**
- A **GA Eligibility Officer will verify identity (State issued picture ID); Physical address; Household Income cannot exceed 80% AMI.** All payments to cover rent/mortgage/utility are sent directly to the landlord/bank/utility company within 30 to 45 days after being notified of eligibility.
- Assistance for gas/water=\$300 each; electricity=full amount owed; rent/mortgage= \$1000, 2 months each max. For mortgage assistance escrow is not included in assistance.

EP RENT HELP PROGRAM

<https://www.eprenthelp.org/>

COVID-19 City of El Paso and County of El Paso

- The City of El Paso and County of El Paso have allocated Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program grant funds to the EP Rent Help program which is administered by the Paso del Norte Community Foundation.
- The program provides rental assistance to landlords of residential rental properties for tenants that are experiencing economic hardship as a result of COVID-19. County households who live in unincorporated areas of the county such as: Fabens, Horizon City, San Elizario, Socorro, Clint, Vinton, Canutillo or Anthony, Texas may qualify for rental arrears assistance.
- **Eligible zip codes:** 79821; 79835; 79836; 79838; 79853; 79849; 79928. To be determined zip codes: 79927; 79932; 79938.

Rent Assistance (only):

1. Interested Landlords and/or Tenants in need of rent assistance will complete an online application at the above noted email address.
2. Applicants will provide required documents/information that will be used to determine eligibility based on verification of: physical address (must live/rent in the unincorporated areas of the county); household income cannot exceed 80% of AMI; household experienced a financial hardship due to COVID19 and must provide proof.
3. Once eligibility is determined, rent assistance must first pay for the arrears owed before assisting with current amount; a maximum of 6 months of assistance may be provided within a 12 month period. Applicants cannot be receiving duplicate assistance from other entities.
4. Households with income at 30% AMI and with a household member that has been unemployed for 90 days or more, will be prioritized and payment will be issued directly to the landlord.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE - FII

- The County of El Paso has allocated CARES funding to provide **cash assistance** to County households experiencing economic hardship as a result of COVID-19. County households who live in unincorporated areas of the county such as: Fabens, Horizon City, San Elizario, Socorro, Clint, Vinton, Canutillo or Anthony, Texas may qualify for this assistance.
- **Eligible zip codes:** 79821; 79835; 79836; 79838; 79853; 79849; 79928. To be determined zip codes: 79927; 79932; 79938.

Cash Assistance:

\$1200 initial assistance and additional 5 payments of \$240/mthly (=\$1200); Eligible households may receive up to 6 months of assistance (=\$2400 total.)

- **Eligibility Criteria:** County zip codes; 80% AMI; COVID 19 Hardship
- **Website and phone number for application TBA.**

PROJECT BRAVO El Paso Community Action Program ; AMISTAD; and, Texas Rent Relief Program

Project Bravo El Paso Community Action Program is a non-profit agency funded by different funding sources to enable them “to bridge access for the El Paso residents to achieve equity and elevate their quality of life through education and social services that lead to self-sufficiency.”

Assistance:

- Rent/Mortgage (temporarily not assisting)/Utilities--Due to high demand of rent/mortgage assistance during and after pandemic crisis, applications for rent/mortgage assistance have been temporarily stopped. Website indicates to “*subscribe to our social media pages for program updates.*”
- Texas Eviction Diversion Program – not taking applications

Eligibility:

- Household Income at or below 200% FPL for Mortgage; 80% AMI for Rent; COVID Positive and other criteria listed in their website: www.projectbravo.org

Amistad:

- Amistad CARES Assistance is available for assistance with utilities; assistance provided can be up to 12 months to cover past due water, gas and electric bills.
- Apply for Utility assistance online: www.projectamistad.org or contact their office at (915)298-7307

Texas Rent Relief:

The Texas Rent Relief Program provides emergency funds available to help Texas renters pay rent/utility bills (including arrears).

Eligibility:

- www.Texasrentrelief.com or call 1 (833) 989-7368

Veteran Assistance Program & Burial Assistance

County of El Paso

The **Veteran Assistance Program** is available for Veterans needing assistance with rent/utilities and other areas impacting a Veteran.

Eligibility:

➤ Contact their office at (915) 759-7990 or reach out via website at www.epcounty.com/veterans

Burial Assistance is also available through the General Assistance Office to eligible households (veteran and non-veteran). Assistance to eligible families whose loved one has passed away from COVID19 may receive up to \$2000 assistance towards the cost of a basic funeral package. The funeral home must also be willing to accept the assistance and once eligible, the County will send the assistance payment directly to the funeral home. All arrangements for assistance must be made prior to services taking place.

Pauper Burial Assistance also available through the General Assistance Office to indigent families that do not have financial resources; assistance provided to eligible families will be cremation and burial at the County Asencion Cemetary. NO formal funeral services take place. All eligible families must prove there is no financial resources or life insurance.

WHERE DO FAMILIES CALL FOR INFORMATION?

EL PASO UNITED – COMMUNITY RESILIENCY CENTER (CRC)

915 – 400-7401

The El Paso United Community Resiliency Center is dedicated to **servicing families financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.** Families who call this number will be directed to the appropriate agency (or agencies) that can offer help with:

- Rental & Utility Assistance
- Workforce & Job-Skill Building
 - Food Assistance
 - Mental Therapy

POST EVICTION ASSISTANCE HOMELESSNESS RESOURCES

- What is considered homeless? According to HUD definition, a homeless individual or family is considered homeless if he/she lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or, Individual or family will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence by eviction; or, Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age; or, families with children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or, any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, has no other residence and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing is considered homeless.
- Available resources for a homeless individual and/or family are through 2-1-1 which primarily is a referral to the County of El Paso's Coordinated Entry Project.

Coordinated Entry Project (CE)

A CE Assessor will receive the call from 2-1-1 and will proceed by conducting a telephone intake with the individual needing services; an assessment to assess the needs of the individual or family also takes place so that they can make an appropriate referral to a housing program that can best fit the needs assessed.

➤ **Eligibility**

An assessment is a tool used to appropriately assess and determine what program to refer the individual to. Dependent on an overall score of this tool the homeless individual will be referred to an Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing Program, Permanent Support Housing, or Transitional Living Center. These are short to long term programs that can help the individual get back on their feet, secure employment and secure safe, decent and affordable housing.

- Call 2-1-1 for referral to the CE Project.



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

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