



N.C. HOPE

# HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND PREVENTION OF EVICTIONS (HOPE) PROGRAM

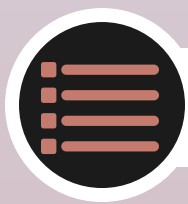
The Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program is a new statewide initiative that may provide rent and utility assistance to eligible low- and moderate-income renters experiencing financial hardship due to the economic effects of COVID-19. The new program will help prevent evictions and utility disconnections in order to promote housing stability during the ongoing pandemic. HOPE is an initiative of the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency, a division of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. The HOPE Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program – Coronavirus and the U.S. Department of the Treasury Coronavirus Relief Funds.



## Eligibility

HOPE will provide rent and utility assistance for renters that:

- Have been affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic
- Have a household income that is 80% of the area median income or lower
- Occupy the rental property as their primary home, and
- Are behind on their rent or utilities when they apply.



## The Application Process

- Complete the application here. If you cannot apply online, you may call 2-1-1 (1-888-892-1162).
- Eligible applicants are referred to a community partner agency serving their county.
- Eligible applicants are contacted to confirm applicant information and gather any additional information or documents needed to complete the application process.
- Once application information is complete, the amount of assistance is calculated.
- Applicant is notified of award amount.
- Applicant signs the HOPE Grant Agreement. For rent assistance, applicant's landlord is contacted so that the Landlord/Tenant Agreement is signed by both parties.
- Payment is made by community partner to landlord and/or utility providers.

A community partner agency will guide you through this process.



## Rent Assistance

1. Pays rent payments on behalf of applicant to the landlord to include:
  - Existing fees or surcharges, including recurring pet fees, insurance fees, utility fees, if part of the lease agreement
  - Restoring security deposits which have been applied to late rent or utilities covered by the landlord.
1. Available for up to six months, including back and future rent with at least one month's rent past due.
2. Assistance paid directly to landlords that agree to participate in the program
3. In order to receive payment from the HOPE Program, the landlord must:
  - Agree not to evict the tenant and end eviction proceedings for non-payment for the remainder of the lease
  - Agree not to increase the rent for the remainder of the lease
  - Agree to maintain a fit and habitable dwelling for the renter
  - Agree not to impose new service fees, charges, penalties, or legal fees on the tenant for the remainder of the lease, and
  - Agree to other conditions in the Landlord/Tenant Agreement.



## Utility Assistance

- Available for up to six months of past due utility payments
- Assistance paid directly to utility provider
- Assists with essential utilities, to include:
  - Electricity
  - Water and sewer/wastewater
  - Natural gas
- Propane delivery for home use and routine propane tank safety checks.

