

## Program Description

The Village of Hoffman Estates Rental Assistance Program (HE-RAP) is an effort to provide assistance to families and individuals who are suffering a temporary financial setback due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Program serves residential renters in eligible households in Hoffman Estates with assistance in paying delinquent rent, rent arrears, utilities and home energy costs and/or utilities and home energy costs in arrears for tenants unable to pay rent or utilities due to loss of income or other financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health emergency. If approved, the assistance will be payable directly to the utility provider and/or landlord on behalf of the tenant. Assistance will not be paid directly to tenant. The maximum amount of assistance eligible households may receive is dependent upon need, eligibility, and funding availability.

A fully completed application, with consent forms, and other required documents must be submitted in order to be considered. All applicants must meet the income eligibility criteria and must have a documented loss of income due to COVID-19.

### Eligibility Requirements

In order to be considered one or more individuals obligated to pay rent under the terms of a residential lease or obligation to pay rent must meet the following criteria:

- Must be delinquent in paying your rent (and/or) utilities
- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income
- Be a resident of Village of Hoffman Estates
- Have a current signed residential lease agreement
- Have past due utility bills in the tenant's name (signed by tenant and landlord)
- Provide letter from landlord that rent is at least 30 days past due
  
- **Ineligible Applicants:**
  - Tenants who have not experienced loss of employment or income as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Applicants whose rental unit is not located within Hoffman Estates village limits.
  
- **Eligible Assistance:**
  - **Rent:** Past due rent and up to 12 months of rental payments. Total of past due rent and future rental payments not to exceed 12 months. Amount of rental assistance is based on need.
  - **Utilities:** Past due utilities (electricity, gas, water and sewer, trash removal and other energy costs) not to exceed 12 months.

\*Assistance under this program is ineligible for assistance: lease-purchase, rent to own units in addition to housing cooperatives.