

The federal government has allocated \$170 million to the State of New Mexico and the City of Albuquerque to disperse for rental and utility assistance for individuals in need of assistance in New Mexico. The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) is spearheading The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) for the State of New Mexico.

### **What is ERAP?**

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program is rental and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

### **How will it work?**

Renters across the state are eligible for the program -- except for residents of Bernalillo County, Dona Ana County, and those who live in a pueblo or tribal area. Those two counties, as well as tribal governments, will administer their own Rental Assistance Programs. Those seeking assistance should review the current FAQ at [www.RentHelpNM.org](http://www.RentHelpNM.org) to learn more about eligibility and documentation needed for their application. The help desk phone number is 1-833-485-1334.

The State of New Mexico will either pay the landlord and/or the utility provider directly depending on the financial assistance request by the applicant. Landlords and utility providers are encouraged to [download a W9](#) and submit it to DFA via [ERAVendor.Relations@state.nm.us](mailto:ERAVendor.Relations@state.nm.us) as soon as possible to ensure a streamlined process for receiving payment.

### **Who is eligible for this program?**

- New Mexicans across the state, except those who reside in Bernalillo County (outside of Albuquerque city limits) or Doña Ana County. Those counties are administering their own programs.
- One or more individuals within the household has qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- The household has a household income at or below 80% of area median income as defined by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Priority will be given to households with income less than 50% of area median income and to households with one or more members that have been unemployed for at least 90 days.