

COVID-19 EVICTION ASSISTANCE

Michigan's COVID-19 emergency pause on evictions ended on July 16. Below are answers to some questions you may have about paying rent and what you can do if your landlord is trying to evict you.

CAN I BE EVICTED IF I DID NOT OR CANNOT NOW PAY MY RENT DUE TO THE CRISIS?

If you live in Detroit, you cannot be evicted until after August 15. If you live anywhere else in Michigan, yes, you can be evicted for not paying your rent.

HOW CAN I GET HELP PAYING MY RENT?

The City of Detroit has set up a fund to assist Detroit residents who are facing eviction and meet certain income requirements. To find out more about the program, call 866-313-2520 or visit www.detroitevictionhelp.com

The State of Michigan has set up an Eviction Diversion Program to keep Michigan residents who fell behind on their rent during COVID-19 in their homes. If you are facing eviction, you may reach out to your local Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA) for assistance. The HARAs in Southeast Michigan are:

- **DETROIT:** United Community Housing Coalition, (866) 313-2520, www.uchcdetroit.org/contact
- **WAYNE COUNTY:** Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, (734) 284-6999 www.waynemetro.org
- **OAKLAND COUNTY:** Community Housing Network, (248) 269-1335 hrc@chninc.net
- **MACOMB COUNTY:** Macomb Homeless Coalition, (586) 213-5757 rwalters@macombhomelesscoalition.com
- **WASHTENAW COUNTY:** The Salvation Army, (734) 961-1999 shana.collins@usc.salvationarmy.org

If you live in a county other than those listed above, you can find your HARA here: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mshda/MSHDA_HARAs_Contact_List_678040_7.pdf

To be eligible for either of these programs, you must have received a notice to quit or a court order summons, complaint or judgement. In accessing these programs, you may be asked about your immigration status. This is due to the way certain legal aid organizations are funded. You are eligible for assistance regardless of your immigration status and your information will be kept confidential.

These agencies anticipate that funds will last for at least a couple of months, so do not be worried if you cannot immediately reach them.

For more information, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,4641,7-141-5555-533463--,00.html>.

CAN MY LANDLORD EVICT ME WITHOUT GOING TO COURT?

No. Your landlord must still take you to court to evict you.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS IN COURT AND WHERE CAN I GET LEGAL HELP?

If you go to court, you have the right to present your defenses. You may bring an attorney and you may demand a jury trial. You will be able to seek a settlement that may reduce the amount of rent you owe. If you don't show up in court, the court will issue a default judgment, which can lead to eviction, negative credit history and trouble renting in the future.

The organizations below offer free legal help. Due to funding requirements, some of these organizations can only serve U.S. residents and Green Card holders, so you may be asked about your immigration status. All of these organizations are committed to getting you to an organization that can help you and your information will be kept confidential.

- **DETROIT:** United Community Housing Coalition, (313) 963-3310, www.uchcdetroit.org/contact or Michigan Legal Services, 313-964-4130
- **WASHTENAW COUNTY:** Legal Services of South Central Michigan, call 734-665-6181 and leave a message
- **STATEWIDE:** Lakeshore Legal Aid, 888-783-8190 or https://michiganlegalhelp.org/call_intake_intro

ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THESE PROGRAMS?

Yes, all immigrants can apply. There is some documentation required, such as a valid ID and a lease.

IS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM THESE PROGRAMS PROHIBITED BY THE PUBLIC CHARGE RULE?

No. These benefits are not specifically listed as benefits impacting the public charge test. If you have concerns about public charge, you should contact an immigration attorney.

IS THERE ASSISTANCE FOR LANDLORDS?

Through the State of Michigan's Eviction Diversion Program, landlords can receive up to 90% of a tenant's back rent as a lump sum. Landlords must forgive late fees and up to 10% of the back rent. For more information, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mshda/0,4641,7-141-5555-533463--,00.html>