



Maricopa County Human Services Department

Maricopa County Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program Activity Report

Maricopa County understood the serious economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals and families throughout Maricopa County and dedicated significant resources for rent assistance. On June 8, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved \$30 million of CARES funds for \$27 million in rental assistance and \$3 million for staffing and administration.

Through its network of Community Action Program partners, the Maricopa County Human Services Department operated the COVID Crisis Rental Assistance service from July 15 through December 31, 2020. During this time, over 6,100 households were served providing over 18,000 months of rental assistance. This is more than 10 times the number of households receiving rental assistance in any year prior to the pandemic.

Under the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program was created to assist renter households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Qualifying households may receive up to fifteen (15) months (including retroactive payments) of rental and utility assistance payments for past due, owed, or future months. Utility assistance is available for electric, gas, water, sewer, and trash utilities. To qualify for assistance households must:

- Live in Maricopa County, but not in the cities of Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Mesa, or Phoenix; and
- Since March 13th 2020, a household member has qualified for Unemployment Insurance from the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) **OR** the household is experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
- Household demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Household is living at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (\$56,900 for a household of 3).

According to federal guidelines, applications for assistance are prioritized using the following criteria:

- Households living at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (\$35,550 for a household of 3).
- Households with one or more members that have been unemployed for the past 90 days at time of application and living at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

ERA Activity Report: March 19 – July 23, 2021

Unique households submitted a completed application	4,468
Unique households submitted a completed utility assistance application	3,287
Unique households submitted a completed rental assistance application	3,182
Unduplicated Households Assisted (Paid and Pending)	2,304
Months of Utility Assistance Provided	12,682
Months of Rental Assistance Provided	11,532
Average Utility Assistance Payment per Household	\$ 1,245
Average Rental Assistance Payment per Household	\$ 7,268
Total Utility Assistance Payments	\$ 1,855,603
Total Rental Assistance Payments	\$ 14,715,192
Total Funds Committed (Paid and Pending)	\$ 16,570,796