**SC Stay Plus**

**Rental & Utility Assistance Program**

**for RENTERS**

**NOW OPEN !! Accepting Applications as of 05/05/2021**

Eligible applicants may receive up to 12 months of assistance with late rent and/or utility payments dating back to March 13, 2020.

**For information and application:**

**Call:** **803-336-3420**

**Website:** [**https://schousing.com/home/SC-Stay-Plus**](https://schousing.com/home/SC-Stay-Plus)

**OPEN TO SC RESIDENTS**

NOTES:

* Note for HOMEOWNERS: Mortgage and utility assistance for homeowners will be offered through a separate program. Check the SC Housing website for more information at [www.schousing.com](http://www.schousing.com)
* The following counties received other funding and will provide their own rental assistance programs: Anderson, Berkeley, Charleston, Greenville, Horry, Richland and Spartanburg. SC Stay Plus is not available in the seven counties listed above.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW for RENTERS\***

Assistance is available for households in which one or more individuals meet the following criteria:

* 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; and
* Has a household income at or below [80% of county median income](https://www.cdbgsc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-SC-Income-Limits-Report-7-1-2020.pdf) adjusted by family size.

Based upon federal requirements, priority will be given to households with an [income at or below 50% of the median income](https://www.cdbgsc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-SC-Income-Limits-Report-7-1-2020.pdf) and those with an individual who has been unemployed for more than 90 days. Household income can be determined by using income for calendar year 2020 or the household’s monthly income at the time of application.

Funding for the program is made available through the U.S. Department of Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Applicants should gather the following documentation. ***Please note: Not all documents are required, and lack of some documents should not discourage applicants from applying*.**

* Pictures or scans of a photo identification (driver’s license, passport [including foreign passports], etc.)
* A copy (or picture) of their signed lease, or proof of rent payments (bank account statement [edit out any confidential information!] or Venmo/Zell screenshot) if a signed lease is not available.
* A 2020 Federal Tax Return (1040/1040EZ or equivalent) or pay stub from the last 60 days. Please note that only the first two pages of a tax return are required.
* Proof of financial hardship, such as:
	+ Proof of unemployment from the South Carolina Department of Employment of Workforce (DEW), including website screenshots or confirmation letters from DEW.
	+ Proof of lost wages – such as a layoff notice, an unemployment letter, proof of business closure
* Proof of risk of housing loss or experiencing homelessness, such as:
	+ An eviction notice (if you have it)
	+ A past due notice for rent or utilities (if you have it)

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**LANDLORD REFERRAL FORM:**

#### Landlords/Property Owners who wish to refer their tenants to the South Carolina Emergency Rental Assistance (SC Stay Plus) Program can complete the Landlord Referral Form at

<https://southcarolina.onlinepha.com/en-US/Pages/View/132/landlord-referral-form>

Note: A referral submission is NOT an application for rental assistance. Upon submission of this form, the referred tenant will be emailed a link to the application form, at which point the referred tenant MUST complete an application during the open application period in order to be considered.