

Emergency Housing Guide for Seniors

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Senior Programs for Emergency Housing

Programs and solutions across the country designed specifically to help low-income individuals, families and older adults are available.

2-1-1 -The United Way crisis line can connect seniors with options for housing and other resources, including those intended to provide food, mental health support or funding for health care expenses.

- 2-1-1 intakes are often required as a prerequisite before trying to get into a shelter or obtaining other assistance.
- There are no eligibility requirements. However, some programs seniors may access through 2-1-1 do have eligibility requirements.
- Seniors can simply dial 2-1-1 from nearly anywhere in the U.S. to be put in touch with the programs and resources they need.
- They can also contact United Way online for assistance.

The Federal Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program

- The Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program helps those with difficulties paying rent, and this program is still ongoing in many states.
- ERA's funding distribution enables local organizations to provide assistance to people struggling to pay rent and utilities such as electricity, water and gas.
- The availability of funds, when applications are still accepted, and program specifics vary by state and each program.
- Some programs may also help with moving expenses, internet and counseling.

Eligibility Information

- Many states' ERA programs accept applications from landlords, so if you're renting, it may be best for you to talk to your landlord about applying for the program. Landlords and renters can apply.
- To find out about the eligibility and application requirements in your state, use this site to find your local program.
- Contact your local program to learn if you're eligible to apply for ERA on your own as a renter or if this is something your landlord should do.

Application Information

Applicants must be renters with a rental agreement whose household has experienced financial hardship, has an income below state program requirements and includes at least one member at risk of becoming homeless or lacking stable housing.

Housing Choice Voucher

- The Housing Choice Voucher Program is a federal program offering low-income housing options and assistance with paying rent for people with disabilities and low income.
- These vouchers are available through your local public housing agency (PHA). In Milledgeville, this is the Milledgeville Housing Authority on Martin Luther King Drive.
- This program enables and encourages participants to choose their own housing, and options don't need to be a part of subsidized housing projects.
- Typically, participants must pay 30% of their monthly adjusted income towards their rent, and the remainder is paid through the voucher program.

Eligibility Information

There are income thresholds a senior or family must not exceed to qualify for a voucher. Most commonly, a recipient's income must stay at or below 50% of their area's median income. And 75% of vouchers must go to people whose income is at or less than 30% of their area's median income.

Application Information

Contact your local PHA to apply. Start by finding contact information for your local PHA. You may also contact your local HUD office for further assistance.

Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program, administered by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

This program designates and advances funding to finance the building and renovation of properties for low-income elderly housing. It also provides rent subsidies.

Seniors can live independently in these housing units but also receive cooking, transportation and other supports.

Eligibility Information

To qualify, older adults or their loved ones must earn a very low income, and at least one member of the household applying must be at least 62 years old or older.

Application Information

Seniors seeking support through this program should look on the grants.gov website for a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). If this is available, you may apply.

Emergency Housing Programs for Veterans

The United States government also provides some emergency housing resources specifically for veterans.

VA Enhanced-Use Lease Program

The Enhanced-Use Lease program provides emergency shelter and safe housing for homeless veterans by transforming underused properties for veteran use in areas throughout the country.

Eligibility Information

Where available, this housing program may be utilized by any veteran otherwise unable to access housing or remain housed.

Application Information

Senior veterans can call (877) 424-3838 or call or visit their local VA office to learn about available shelters in their area.

U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Voucher (HUD-VASH)

- The HUD-VASH program was created for homeless veterans across the country to give them access to permanent housing and the supports needed to keep certain benefits, including health care and counseling services.
- Veterans receive rental assistance through the HUD Housing Choice Voucher program and additional case management services through the VA.

Eligibility Information

A very low income and service in an eligible military program are required to access this program.

Application Information

Senior veterans may apply online or call (877) 424-3838. They may also visit their local Veterans Affairs office to find out more or apply.

(<https://www.caring.com/caregivers/emergency-housing-guide/>)