

Dear colleagues,

I want to update you on a few last minute changes to the state's rental subsidy program. This proposal is working its way through the legislature, but I expect it to be approved next week.

First, a recap of where we are.

As you know, the state's eviction moratorium expires July 1. In anticipation, we've all been exceedingly busy getting the word out to encourage tenants to apply for the Oregon Emergency Assistance Rental Program, which can provide as much as 12 months of unpaid rent back to April 2020, and three months of prospective rent. However, in the last week it has become clear that Oregon Housing and Community Services would not be able to get checks to tenants in time to pay July rent. As a result, we anticipated that many tenants would be vulnerable to eviction despite the fact that they had applied for assistance.

Accordingly, today the House will vote on changes to the program. You can see the amended bill here: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2021R1/Downloads/ProposedAmendment/21449> In summary, these changes include:

1. Tenants who present the landlord with evidence that she/he has applied for state assistance will be protected from eviction for 60 days. That 60 day delay can be used just once before February 28, 2022.
2. Landlords will be guaranteed payment for that 60 day period, either through payments made via the tenant's application for assistance, or via another fund created just for landlords whose tenants are not approved through the assistance program.
3. Reimbursement from the Landlord Compensation fund that will sunset at the end of June have been increased from 80 to 100% coverage. This will be retroactive for all months in the landlord's application.
4. Landlords who have not applied to the Landlord Compensation Fund should do so by Wednesday, June 23.

Please help us get the word out! These changes will affect many tenants and landlords, and we need to make sure they are understood and that tenants and landlords all apply for the help that is available.

Many thanks!

Best,

Pam

P.S. Here is the application information from OHCS. However, these sites will not be updated with the information in this email, since the legislation that makes these changes is still in process.

OHCS needs your help. This week is critical in spreading the word about rental assistance programs. The final round of the [Landlord Compensation Fund](#) closing date has been extended to **WEDNESDAY, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Tens of millions of dollars are available to landlords with past due rent from tenants with a financial hardship. [Please find a social media toolkit at this link.](#)

For renters in need, the [Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) is accepting application via an online portal or paper applications. Promotional materials are on [our website](#) and the [social media toolkit is available here](#). OHCS is rapidly increasing surge capacity, and sixteen chat staff are being trained to process applications as early as next week. These staff will do back end processing, allowing local program administrators to work with tenants and landlord directly. We will continue to increase surge capacity staff to help our partners serve their community and keep Oregonians in their homes.