

YOUR RIGHTS TO HOUSING & RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Emergency Rental Assistance Helps with Housing Costs

THERE ARE NO IMMIGRATION EFFECTS



All immigrants qualify! Your information will remain confidential. You do not need a social security number or ITIN.

Who can get help with housing costs?

Rental help is available to all New Mexican households, regardless of immigration status, who must pay rent for a residential house, apartment or other dwelling.



What can the payments be used for?

Rental assistance can be used for rent and utility payments (heating, cooling, water).

This includes unpaid rent due in the past, current rent due and up to 3 months of future rent.

Funding may also be available for other housing-related expenses that were due to the COVID-19 outbreak, directly or indirectly, such as motel costs, security deposits, internet, etc.

How do you apply?

If you live in New Mexico, go to <https://www.renthelpnm.org/renters/> or call [1-833-485-1334](tel:1-833-485-1334).

Will there be immigration consequences (public charge) for applying?

No. Immigrant families qualify for rental assistance without immigration consequences.

The public charge test is very limited and never applies to rental assistance

The public charge is a test used by the federal government to see if someone applying for a green card or a visa is likely to use two types of government programs. "Public charge" can be used to deny very few immigrants admission into the United States or lawful permanent residency. The public charge test does not apply to immigrants naturalizing to become citizens or lawful permanent residents who apply to become U.S. citizens. In fact, many immigrants are exempt from the test, like refugees and asylees.



IMPORTANT:

Rental assistance, child tax credits, and any stimulus or other funds you received because of the pandemic do NOT cause immigration effects.

Programs that **COULD** prevent you from getting a green card or visa are:

- Recurring cash assistance (TANF and General Assistance)
- Long term hospital care paid for Medicaid

The use of these benefits may be considered a public charge only when someone is applying to become a legal permanent resident--or if someone is already a resident--and spends six months outside of the country and tries to reenter the US.

QUESTIONS?

Call Teague González and Verenice Peregrino Pompa, Public Benefits attorneys at the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, at (505) 255-2840.

