

Emergency Rental Assistance Updates:

Preservation Compact has been meeting with IHDA, City of Chicago and Cook County weekly to facilitate information sharing and coordination.

- As part of that effort, the Compact developed a unified webpage, chicookilrenthelp.org, with information about all three programs.

Cook County: accepting applications 3/11-4/9, expect to start funding applications 4/8

- Total budget: \$65 million
- 13,000 applications received as of 4/7 (represents \$86 million in requests)
- 1,800 approved applications (represents \$8 million in requests)
- Half of the applications initiated by landlords, half initiated by tenants
- Majority of applicants at 50% of AMI or below
- County is exploring whether they will do a stand-alone utility assistance program
 - Current program allows for a \$1150 utility allowance paired with rental assistance

City of Chicago: program expected to launch in early May

- Total budget: \$80 million budget from December federal appropriation, plus additional funds from the new package
 - Additional Biden dollars will be folded in as they become available
- Program will cover up to 12 months of arrears and up to 3 months forward
- Landlords and tenants can both initiate applications, additional option for landlords to pre-register to simplify process
 - Landlords can register all of their addresses and tenants applying can be automatically linked to the property owner application
- Just closed RFP for call center and case management services, but City is also contracting with delegate agencies to do outreach and application processing
- Online application portal
- No ITIN or SSN requirement for tenants, landlords must provide one or the other

IHDA: [program](#) expected to launch in mid-May, four week application window

- Total budget: \$550 million from December appropriation
- Program will cover up to 12 months of arrears and up to 3 months forward
- Landlord initiates application and then tenants apply
- Online application portal in English and Spanish, but call center available for assistance
 - 80% of the applications were completed on smartphones in the last round, new app is even more smartphone friendly
- No ITIN or SSN requirement for tenants, landlords must provide one or the other
- Contracting with 60 nonprofits across the state to provide technical assistance to owners and tenants
- Directing applicants with utility needs to LIHEAP programs, directing tenants in need of additional case management to IDHS
- Data and analysis from last round available on the [IHDA website](#)

- Who is falling through the cracks? Is the funding sufficient to meet need?
 - Immigrant communities need extra outreach, help informing them that this program is safe
 - Specific outreach also needed for owners of 2-4s to make sure they are able to participate
 - Tenants may have been digging different holes for themselves to keep paying their rent (building up credit card debt, etc.) unfortunately program can only assist with rent and utilities
 - Both tenants and landlords have faced some challenges with mobile uploads of documents
 - Community agencies play an important role in bridging this gap, but need more time to get out and reach individuals
- How do applications interact between City, County, and State programs?
 - All agencies are working together to avoid duplication of benefits
 - Tenants and landlords are eligible to apply for any program that they meet the requirements for, but can only receive an award from one agency

NLIHC on New Stimulus Bill

- [American Rescue Plan Act](#)
 - \$50 billion in housing and homelessness, \$20 billion in emergency rental assistance
 - \$2.5m set-aside for high need communities
 - \$5 billion for new vouchers for people at risk of homelessness or fleeing DV
 - \$5 billion through HOME
- [Infrastructure Bill \(American Jobs Plan\)](#)
 - Investment of \$213 billion to produce, preserve and retrofit housing
 - \$40 billion for public housing
 - Buy-in from moderate democrats and republicans who don't see housing as a piece of infrastructure is important, reach out to legislators to remind them that housing is an important issue that needs funding
- NLIHC [Campaign Priorities](#)
 - Housing assistance as an entitlement
 - Expansion of a HCV program (move from discretionary to mandatory side)
 - Exploring ways to scale up over time
 - Renters tax credits
 - Those paying >30% would receive a monthly refundable tax credit to cover gap
 - NLIHC: start targeting universal assistance at less than 30% of AMI, some are suggesting up to 80% of AMI

Partner Updates

- Marisa Novara:
 - The new ARO will be heard in committee next Tuesday
 - ARO can be triggered with an existing building when there's a change in use (for example, from commercial to residential) or any other zoning change
 - New ARO: For existing properties that trigger the ARO there would be a 20% affordability requirement
 - Half of the units must be built, half can be paid out
 - Built units do not need to be in direct proximity to the triggering building, instead they can be built offsite in specified areas
 - Offsite can assist with the preservation of existing unsubsidized buildings in rising markets
 - The new QAP is out for public comment
 - 4th priority: recapitalization of existing affordable housing
- Jim Cunningham: HUD withdrew the mixed status proposed rule, currently eligible mixed status households can still access HUD assistance
- Allison Clark: 100 & Change Competition awarded \$100 million to Community Solutions for their effort to reduce homelessness