Texas Rent Relief Program Re-Opens Applications for Limited Time, March 14-28

Eligible households can apply online or over the phone for first-time for additional program assistance

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) announced it will re-open the <u>Texas Rent</u> <u>Relief (TRR)</u> application portal from March 14-28 in order to accept new applications for a remaining \$96M in TRR funds. The TRR portal will accept new applications starting Tuesday, March 14 at 8 a.m. CT through Tuesday, March 28 at 11:59 p.m. CT, to help eligible households with rent and utility payments.

First-time TRR applicants may be eligible for up to 18 months of rent and utility bill assistance, either with past due payments or a combination of past due and up to three months of current and future payments made on their behalf. Returning applicants who have not received the maximum allowed 18 months of assistance for rent and/or utility bills can submit an Additional Funding Request via their existing <u>online user account</u>. Applications will be processed in the order received, prioritizing those facing evictions.

Eligible households can apply for assistance online at <u>TexasRentRelief.com</u> or over the phone by calling the TRR call center at 833-9TX-RENT (833-989-7368).

"To date, Texas Rent Relief has served more than 316,000 households affected by the pandemic. We continue to see a strong need for assistance, and eviction filings statewide have now returned to pre-pandemic levels. We're thankful for the opportunity to re-open the application portal for two weeks to help more Texas tenants and landlords," said Bobby Wilkinson, TDHCA Executive Director. "Funding is limited, so anyone who needs help paying their rent and utility bills should review the program requirements now, gather all the necessary paperwork ahead of time, and be ready to apply on March 14."

After submitting, applicants should watch for communication from TRR in case additional information is needed for application. Failure to respond will delay application review and timeline for approved payments.

Those facing eviction should seek legal assistance, go to their eviction hearing, and stay in communication with their landlord and the court. They can visit <u>https://texaslawhelp.org/eviction-referral</u> or call 855-270-7655 for help understanding their options and to seek free or low-cost legal assistance.

Since the program launched in February 2021, TRR has provided over \$2 billion in emergency funds for rent and utility relief, served 250 Texas counties and prevented evictions for over 21,000 households. Visit <u>TexasRentRelief.com</u> for more program highlights.

About the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is committed to expanding fair housing choice and opportunities for Texans through the administration and funding of affordable housing and homeownership opportunities, weatherization, and community-based services with the help of for-profits, nonprofits, and local governments. For more information about fair housing, funding opportunities, or services in your area, please visit <u>www.tdhca.state.tx.us</u> or the <u>Learn about Fair Housing in Texas</u> page.