

**Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 (CDBG-CV)
Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program FY 2020-21
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1- Can I submit my application in person?

No, physical applications will not be accepted. All applications must be submitted online at www.simivalley.org/CDBGCVPrograms.

2- I do not have a computer, where can I go for assistance?

Contact the Simi Valley Public Library at 2969 Tapo Canyon Road, Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5pm, at (805) 526-1735

Requirements-

- *Applicants **must call and make an appointment***
- *Only one (1) applicant at a time will be scheduled*
- *Computer may only be used for Emergency Rental Assistance Application*
- *Printing and scanning equipment will be available*

3- Who can apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program?

Simi Valley residents who rent a legal residential unit are considered tenants and can apply for the ERA Program, but in order for the application to be complete, your landlord/property management company must participate as well.

4- Can I apply if I live with roommates or other family members?

Yes, you may apply if you live with roommates or other family members but only one application per household is allowed.

5- Is a rental lease required?

Yes, you must have a current rental lease agreement in order to qualify for this program. A verbal agreement or an expired lease are not acceptable.

6- What if the address on my lease does not match the address on my driver's license or ID?

In order to have a completed application for rental assistance, you must provide a legal document with your current address. Acceptable legal documents include: utility bills, bank statements, credit card statements or Social Security award letters. All documents must be dated within 90 days prior to application filing.

- 7- Can I apply if I participate in the Housing Voucher Program (Section 8) or receive another type of ongoing rental assistance?**
No, you are ineligible for the ERA if you receive subsidized rental assistance from another source.
- 8- If I have received other COVID-19 related assistance, may I still apply?**
Yes, however, federally-funded programs, including the CDBG program and funding provided through the CARES Act, must comply with the Stafford Act restrictions preventing duplication of benefits. Furthermore, for this grant, priority will be given to those applicants, who have not received any other grant funding or assistance.
- 9- If I complete my portion of the application but my landlord/property management company does not complete their part, will my application be considered?**
No, the ERA Program requires your landlord/property management company to submit their information in order for your application to be considered.
- 10- Do I have to pay the money back?**
No, the ERA Program is a grant and repayment is not required.
- 11- Can late fees be paid with this assistance?**
No, the ERA Program will only pay for rent, not late fees or penalties.
- 12- Are commercial properties eligible to receive rental assistance?**
No, the ERA Program is specifically for residential properties.
- 13- What qualifies as circumstances of the inability to pay rent due to COVID-19?**
- *Loss of income due to workplace closure or reduced hours*
 - *Loss of income or increased childcare costs because daycares or schools are closed*
 - *Medical costs for you or a household member who is ill with COVID-19*
 - *Loss of income due to government-ordered emergency measures*
- 14- As a renter, do I need to be behind in rent to be eligible for the program?**
No, a tenant does not have to be behind in rent but does need to have a reduction in income related to COVID-19 and meet the household income eligibility requirements. In other words, the inability to pay rent must be clearly documented and attributable to COVID-19.

15- How do I know if my income is at 30% of the median income?

If your gross household income, including income of all adults 18 years of age or older living in your home, is at or below the dollar amount for the household size listed in the following chart, you may qualify:

Household Size	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
30% Income Limit	\$23,700	\$27,100	\$30,500	\$33,850	\$36,600	\$39,300	\$42,000	\$44,700

16- How do I know if my income is at 50% of the median income?

If your gross household income, including income of all adults 18 years of age or older living in your home, is at or below the dollar amount for the household size listed in the following chart, you may qualify:

Household Size	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
50% Income Limit	\$39,550	\$45,200	\$50,850	\$56,450	\$61,000	\$65,500	\$70,000	\$74,550

17- If a tenant is selected to receive rental assistance, can a tenant receive reimbursement for rent already paid to the landlord/property management company?

No, there is no reimbursement for back pay. The rental assistance grant is intended for rent-burdened tenants and will apply to unpaid rent obligations from April 1, 2020.

18- I am a homeowner who is affected by COVID-19. Can I apply?

No, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program is only available for rent assistance.

19- What do you consider income?

Income includes salaries and wages, tips, benefits, commissions, profits from operating your business; includes gross income earned before taxes from wages, unemployment compensation, alimony, child support, investment income, pension, retirement, social security and other income sources. If you have no income, you will indicate this on the application.

20- Before the COVID-19 crisis, I would not have qualified because I made too much, but my income has decreased significantly. Do I qualify?

You may qualify. We will take your household income from the past 30 days and multiply that over a 12-month period to determine if it exceeds the Income Limits for your household size. You may have been above the income limit threshold pre-COVID-19 and now qualify based on your income from the past 30 days.

- 21- Is the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation per week that was added to individuals collecting Regular Unemployment Compensation considered income?**
No, since this is a limited-time assistance, HUD is excluding it from counting as income.
- 22- I participate in the cash economy and do not have paystubs. How do I show proof of income?**
Complete the City's Certification form at the time of application and provide documentation that demonstrates loss of income.
- 23- Will priority be given to households with children, disabled, Veterans or the elderly?**
No, in reviewing applications, the only priority that will be given is to applicants who have not received any other grant funding or assistance.
- 24- My address is in Simi Valley, but I do not live within City limits. Am I still eligible to apply?**
No, only properties located within the incorporated City limits are eligible for the ERA Program.
- 25- What is considered a household?**
All persons who occupy a housing unit, whether related or not. The occupants may be single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of persons who share living arrangements.

CDBG Program Administration

For additional information contact:

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