



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Housing Opportunity and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program is a new statewide initiative that provides rent and utility assistance to eligible low- and moderate-income renters experiencing financial hardship due to the economic effects of COVID-19. The new program will help prevent evictions and utility disconnections in order to promote housing stability during the ongoing pandemic. HOPE is an initiative of the NC Office of Recovery and Resiliency, a division of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Eligibility

HOPE will provide rent and utility assistance for renters who:

- Have been affected by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic,
- Have a household income that is 80% of the area median income or lower, and
- Are behind on their rent or utilities when they apply.

How to Apply

Renters should **call 2-1-1** if they need rent or utility assistance. Callers will be screened by 2-1-1 for eligibility and will be referred to a community partner agency to complete the application process. Renters can also apply online at nc211.org/hope.

Program Features

The HOPE Program is a grant program, not a loan program.

- Rent Assistance:
 - Pays rent payments on behalf of applicant.
 - Is available for up to six months, including back and future rent.
 - Is paid directly to landlords that agree to participate in the program.
- Utility Assistance:
 - Assists with essential utilities, such as:
 - Electricity.
 - Water and sewer/wastewater.
 - Natural gas.
 - Propane.
 - Is available for up to six months of past due utility payments.
 - Is paid directly to the utility provider.

Keeping families home, when it matters the most.