



ALAMEDA COUNTY  
HOUSING SECURE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Erika Brink

[erika@fcpccommunications.com](mailto:erika@fcpccommunications.com)

510-550-8179 / 951-553-3561

## **Alameda County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program Distributes Over \$50 Million in Aid to Residents**

*Pandemic Assistance Helps Over 4,000 Alameda County Households Maintain Housing Stability; 75% of Recipients A Extremely Low Income*

**ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA** – Today, Alameda County's Housing and Community Development Department announced that it has distributed over \$50 million in State and Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds. To date, 95% of the funding has gone to residents with an extremely or very low income (under 50% of the area median income) and 60% of funding has gone to women-headed households.

Alameda County has partnered with local tenant rights and legal services nonprofit Centro Legal de la Raza to administer the program and has enlisted over 50 local faith-based and community partners working in over 15 languages to promote the program and assist with the application process. To meet the urgency of community need additional support organizations were onboarded, increasing approvals by nearly 300% since September.

"These funds are essential to keep families in this community housed," said Eric Magana, ERAP Project Manager and Case Manager at Eviction Defense Center, one of the partners supporting application processing. "We've seen a non-stop flow of applications for assistance. The pandemic has hit the low and extremely low-income residents in our community, especially the undocumented and people of color, with unprecedented impact. These rental funds are a lifeline for many," he added.

Michelle Starratt, Director of the Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department added, "We have put funds directly into the housing economy with great speed and deliberate collaboration with community partners. We've identified those most in need and prioritized helping them. Today marks an important milestone, but we have a tremendous amount of work still to do, including pursuing additional funding requests pending with the federal government to continue to help meet community need."

**Fast Facts on ERAP Funds (as of 2/14):**

- **\$53.8** has been paid out directly to landlords and utilities.
- **4,500+ households** have had their applications approved, supporting their housing stability.
- **60% of aid** has gone to **women-headed households**.
- **75% of support** has gone to **extremely low income applicants** making 0-30% of the area median income (AMI).
- An additional 19% of aid has been distributed to those who are considered very low income (making 30-50% AMI). In total **95% of applicants make less than 50% AMI** and 100% of aid has gone to applicants making less than 80% of AMI.

“Rental assistance is needed in every corner of the County,” said District 3 Supervisor Dave Brown. “Our tenants and property owners are hurting. These funds are essential and we are moving them out quickly and efficiently.”

Alameda County has also enacted an eviction moratorium that provided much-needed housing stabilization during the pandemic and that will last until 60 days after the public health crisis has ended. This emergency ordinance provides that all evictions anywhere in the County are prohibited, with few exceptions.

Alameda County’s ERAP program covers all of the county except the cities of Oakland and Fremont, which administer their own funds locally. Working together with Oakland and Fremont, Alameda County has made an aggressive effort to make sure constituents are applying for the right program. All three jurisdictions have applied for additional funding from the Federal government in hopes of continuing to meet this community need.

Renters who can demonstrate financial hardship due to COVID-19, are at risk of experiencing homelessness, or have qualified unemployment can still apply for rent relief. Emergency Rental Assistance funds are available to cover up to 12 months of past and 3 months of future rent and utility payments.

**Call 211 or visit [ac-housingsecure.org](https://ac-housingsecure.org) for resources and up-to-date information on the program.**

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**Alameda County Housing Secure** is a collaborative of legal service providers that was established by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 2018 as an eviction defense program partnering to prevent the displacement of our most vulnerable community members. Led by Alameda County Housing and Community Development and Centro Legal de la Raza, the ACHS Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is assisting those financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Community Organizations that assisted with ERAP:**

A-1 Community Housing Services	Davis Street Community Center	REACH Ashland Youth Center
Acts Full Gospel Church	East Bay Rental Housing Association	Resources for Community Development
Afghan Coalition	Eden Church of Christ	Ruby's Place
Alameda County Community Food Bank	Eden I & R – 211	Safe Passages
Alameda County Family Justice Center	Eviction Defense Center	San Lorenzo Unified School District
Ariel Outreach Mission	Faith in Action East Bay	Seek and Save
Ashland Community Association	First Presbyterian Church of Hayward dba South Hayward Parish	Solutions West
Asian Refugees United	Full Court Press	Southern Alameda County Rental Housing Owners Association
BANANAS, Inc	Communications	Support Life Foundation
Bay Area Community Health	Glad Tidings	Teach Earth Action (TEA)
Bay Area Community Land Trust	Global Communications Education & Art	The HUME Center
Center for Empowering Refugees and Immigrants	Global MediaX	Tri-City Volunteers Inc.
Centro Legal de la Raza	Healthy Communities	Trybe
Chinese Christian Herald Crusades	Hively	United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County
City Serve of the Tri-Valley	Just Cities	Vietnamese American Community Center of the East Bay
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)	Love 113	Vision y Compromiso
Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL)	Marshall Elementary PTA	Women's Daytime Drop-In Center
	My Eden Voice	
	Narika	
	Northern California Land Trust	
	Padres Unidos de Cherryland	