



# NEWS

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, CHAIR  
KENNETH E. LAWRENCE, JR., VICE CHAIR  
JOSEPH C. GALE, COMMISSIONER

**Contact:** Teresa Harris | Public Affairs Manager | 610-278-3062 | [tharris@montcopa.org](mailto:tharris@montcopa.org)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **Your Way Home Emergency Rent & Utility Coalition Will Assist Montgomery County Households Affected by COVID-19** *Applications open on September 8, 2020*

**Norristown, PA (September 4, 2020)** – Montgomery County officials announced today the Your Way Home Emergency Rent & Utility Coalition, which will offer comprehensive, alternative mechanisms of relief for Montgomery County households affected by COVID-19 in the form of rental and utility assistance.

Governor Wolf's moratorium on evictions and foreclosures expired on August 31, 2020. Without the Governor's authority to extend the moratorium further, households in need will be at risk of homelessness. Wolf has asked the General Assembly to extend the moratorium.

Beginning September 8, the Your Way Home Emergency Rent & Utility Coalition will provide households who have experienced a COVID-19 hardship, up to \$1,500 per month in assistance for rental arrears and/or utility arrears dating back to March 1, 2020. A maximum of six months' worth of arrears may be awarded. Thus, eligible households may receive a maximum of \$9,000 in rental or utility assistance to keep them safe and healthy in their homes.

"Keeping people in their homes and preventing an influx of homelessness is critical to the health and safety of Montgomery County households. It is also a major contributing factor in the recovery from the impacts of COVID-19," said Dr. Valerie A. Arkoosh, Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

The goal of the program is to distribute \$5.9 million in rental and utility relief to at least 660 Montgomery County households.

Esri's Business Analyst tool estimates that 2020 Montgomery County renter households total 96,664. The National Low-Income Housing Coalition states that 29-43% of renter households are at severe risk of eviction by the end of this year due to the impacts of COVID-19. Estimates put 23,000 to 47,000 households in Montco at risk of eviction when the moratorium ends.

Although initiatives like the state-wide PHFA Rent Relief Program attempt to respond to the need, the program has not yet had the intended impact of providing rent relief and housing stability to Montgomery County households impacted by COVID-19.

Starting on September 8, households in need can access the program by calling Your Way Home by dialing 2-1-1, texting the household zip code to 898-211, or by contacting the following participating agencies:

**ACLAMO**

[HousingProgram@ACLAMO.org](mailto:HousingProgram@ACLAMO.org)

512 W. Marshall Street, Norristown, PA 19401 (or)

515 Walnut Street, Pottstown, PA 19464

**CADCOM**

[ebaker@cadcom.org](mailto:ebaker@cadcom.org)

610.277.6363# 118

113 E. Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401

**Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities**

[www.pottstowncluster.org/COVIDrentutilityassistance](http://www.pottstowncluster.org/COVIDrentutilityassistance)

[COVIDrentutilityassistance@pottstowncluster.org](mailto:COVIDrentutilityassistance@pottstowncluster.org)

610.970.5995, extension 115

57 N. Franklin Street, Pottstown, PA 19464

**Manna on Main Street**

[teri@mannaonmain.org](mailto:teri@mannaonmain.org)

215.855.5454, ext. 22

[mannaonmain.org/financial-assistance-application](http://mannaonmain.org/financial-assistance-application)

606 Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

In order to qualify, households must:

- Reside in Montgomery County at the time of application.
- Be at or below 100% of area median income at the time of application.
- Have rent arrears and/or an eviction notice and/or utility arrears and/or a utility shut-off notice at the time of application in order to receive assistance.
- Be able to self-report a COVID-19 hardship and have no alternative means to pay the rent and/or utility arrears for which the household is applying.

For more information about the Your Way Home Emergency Rent & Utility Coalition, visit [www.yourwayhome.org](http://www.yourwayhome.org) or dial 2-1-1.

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to be a rapidly evolving situation. Please visit the Montco COVID-19 Data Hub at [www.montcopa.org/covid-19](http://www.montcopa.org/covid-19) to get the latest news, geographic and demographic information, and updates.

###