

# **Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. ®**



We provide free legal aid to people with civil legal problems in western New York.

[www.lawny.org](http://www.lawny.org)

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## **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) - Updated June 2021**

### **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**

#### **Can I be evicted during the pandemic?**

In short- maybe. Evictions are still happening. Evictions are on hold until August 31, but ONLY if you submit a hardship declaration. Do not ignore court papers, even if you turned in a hardship declaration.

There is not a rent holiday; tenants still owe unpaid rent.

#### **What is the emergency rental assistance program?**

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) helps households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible households may receive up to 12 months of assistance to cover their back rent and, if applicable, an additional 3 months of future rent. In general, funds will be paid directly to landlords and utility service providers. This is a grant - the money does NOT need to be repaid.

#### **Am I eligible?**

To be eligible, you must meet the following three criteria:

- 1) Owe past due rent at your current residence;
- 2) Have a member of your household who received unemployment benefits, OR experienced a financial hardship, directly or indirectly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic; AND
- 3) Have a household gross income at or below 80 percent of area median income, which varies by county and household size. (For example, the limit for a household of four would be \$64,100 in Ontario County - see application website for full details)

\*You do not have to be actively facing an eviction to apply.

## **How do I apply?**

Applications will be accepted starting on June 1, 2021.

Applications and a list of necessary documentation can be found at [otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance)

## **Need Help Applying?**

Social services districts and community-based organizations in each locality can assist both tenants and landlords in completing applications. They also can provide internet access, assist with uploading documentation, and answer other questions that you might have.

To find help in your county, visit:

[otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/help-applying](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/help-applying)

## **Talk To An Attorney**

Contact your local LawNY office for help.

Visit [www.lawny.org](http://www.lawny.org) or call your local office:

Bath (607) 776-4126; Toll Free (877) 776-4126

Elmira (607) 734-1647

Geneva (315) 781-1465; Toll Free: (866) 781-5235

Ithaca (607) 273-3667; Toll Free: (800) 724-4170

Jamestown (716) 664-4535; Toll Free: (866) 664-4567

Olean (716) 373-4701; Toll Free: (888) 767-1950

Rochester (585) 325-2520

Last Reviewed: June 16, 2021

 [ERAP flyer\\_FINAL.pdf](#)

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Printed:September 22, 2021

<http://www.lawny.org/node/444/emergency-rental-assistance-program-erap-updated-june-2021>

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