



Applying for Emergency Rental Assistance

WHAT TYPES OF GRANTS CAN HELP YOU AVOID BEING EVICTED?

The Human Resources Administration (HRA) has three grants that can help you avoid being evicted:

- **Emergency Assistance for Adults (EAA)** is a grant for people who receive or are eligible for SSI.
- **Emergency Assistance to Families with Children (EAF)** is a grant to help households with children who receive public assistance.
- **Emergency Safety Net Assistance (ESNA)** is a grant for single adults and childless couples.

WHAT DOES HRA CONSIDER TO BE AN EMERGENCY?

An emergency is a sudden situation from a serious event that was beyond your control.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH GRANT?

Your household must:

EAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be eligible for, or get, SSI; and 2. Be affected by an emergency.
EAF	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a minor child or children; 2. Be affected by an emergency; and 3. Need the help to avoid poverty of your child.
ESNA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be affected by an emergency; and 2. Not be able to meet the need under the EAF grant, the EAA grant, Family Assistance, Safety Net Assistance, or HEAP programs.

HOW DOES HRA DECIDE TO PAY RENTAL ARREARS?

HRA decides to pay rental arrears on a case-by-case basis, considering:

1. Your responsibility for the arrears;
2. Your need for the help;

3. Your ability to pay off some of the arrears by another source like family members, friends, or organizations; and
4. Your future ability to pay your rent:
 - o You can show future ability by having a third party help pay ongoing rent. The third party has to show that helping you will impoverish them, and they must give HRA papers proving their income and expenses.

HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I GET?

EAA	You are limited to four months of rent, once in a 12 month period.
EAF/ ESNA	You are limited to a total period of six months of rent, once every five years.

WHAT ARE THE INCOME REQUIREMENTS?

EAA	You must be getting SSI benefits or have been approved for SSI benefits.
EAF	Your household's gross income must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. You can't have resources immediately available to you to help you pay for the emergency.
ESNA	Your household's gross income must be at or below 125% of the federal poverty level. You can't have resources immediately available to you to help you pay for the emergency.

IF I AM AN IMMIGRANT CAN I QUALIFY FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE?

Eligibility for emergency rental assistance depends on your immigration status and other factors, including: when you came to the U.S., if your immigration status has changed, your age, and if you have a disability.

As each case is different, please contact us if you have questions before applying for emergency rental assistance for you or for others. Applications can affect your immigration status.

HOW CAN I APPLY FOR A GRANT?

You can apply for a grant at any local HRA Job Center. HRA will give you an interview. At the interview you will need to give HRA documents to show you are eligible. If the emergency is an eviction and the grant can't be given to you on the day of your application, it should be given to you before the eviction.

HOW OFTEN CAN I APPLY?

HRA limits how often and how much help you can get. However, HRA can make an exception if you show the need and importance of your emergency situation.

WILL GETTING ONE OF THESE GRANTS AFFECT MY OTHER BENEFITS?

EAA/ ESNA	Your grant would not count against SNAP, Medicaid, and SSI.
EAF	Your grant would not count against SNAP and Medicaid, but would count against SSI.

WILL I HAVE TO PAY BACK ANY OF THE GRANT THAT I RECEIVE?

EAA	You generally do not need to repay this grant.
EAF	You generally do not need to repay this grant. However, if HRA gives you more than the maximum monthly shelter allowance you get, you might have to pay back the difference.
ESNA	If you are not getting cash assistance from HRA, you will have to repay the grant. You will have 12 months to repay it.

IF I APPLY AND I AM DENIED A GRANT, CAN I APPEAL THE DECISION?

Yes, you can file for a Fair Hearing to appeal your denial *within 60 days of the date of the denial notice*. You can also ask for an informal conference at your HRA Job Center to discuss the issue with a case worker. You can file for a fair hearing either by phone 1-800-342-3334, fax 518-473-6735, online <http://otda.ny.gov/hearings/request/#online>, or in person at 14 Boerum Place in Brooklyn.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You may call MFY Legal Services, Inc.'s Government Benefits Project at 212-417-3732 on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: This fact sheet gives general information for NYC residents; it is NOT legal advice.