



EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Lieutenant Governor's Office has received a grant from the South Carolina Housing Authority to administer an emergency rental assistance program throughout the state for persons age sixty (60) and older and who are at 150% of the federal poverty level or below.

The program will begin in July 2013 and will remain in effect until all funds are expended.

Funding for the emergency rental assistance program is limited. Assistance is given on a first-come, first-served basis. Any application that is not completed in its entirety could delay funds. Once an applicant is deemed eligible by the I & R Specialist at the local ADRC and LGOA Staff, funds will be sent directly to the Property Manager/Landlord by the LGOA.

The I & R Specialist will also try to determine why a senior is having difficulty paying their rent and other expenses and they may also be referred to other programs for services such as employment and/or prescription drug coverage. Our goal is to meet the immediate need for shelter and also provide long term stability for the senior.

Definition of Emergency Situation: A situation is deemed an emergency when a senior suffers a short-term financial hardship due to an unexpected crisis situation such as loss of job, home fire, eviction notice or illness. The situation must require more resources than the senior has available and additional funds are needed to assist the senior in resolving the emergency situation. The program is intended to allow seniors to maintain housing during the time it takes to regain stability. Eligible seniors must demonstrate that they will have sufficient income to cover rent and other living expenses in the future.

The following are guidelines for the program:

- Assistance will be given to eligible persons 60 years of age and older;
- Eligible households may have a gross income of 150% of the poverty level, but the focus will be on households at 100% of the federal poverty level;
- Applicant must rent or lease his/her primary place of residence in the state of South Carolina;
- Applicant's name must be on the lease;
- Applicant must be financially able to meet normal rental obligations after the emergency situation has passed;
- Applicants must complete an application packet with the Regional I&R Specialist at the local ADRC;
- Proof of income for the household must be supplied along with a picture identification;
- Property Manager/Landlord information must be supplied on the application and a W-9 must be completed;
- Payments will be mailed to the Property Manager/Landlord; and
- All decisions made by the LGOA are final.

For questions or assistance, please contact Pamela Grant at 1-800-868-9095.