

August
2020

Housing & Shelter



Worried about your housing situation?

Find resources for renters, homeowners, and people experiencing homelessness in this guide.

Do you need legal representation for an eviction case or a housing issue?

Tenants that live in **privately-owned rental housing** can contact the **Rhode Island Center for Justice** at (401) 491-1101 or visit www.centerforjustice.org

Renters that use a **Section 8 Voucher** or live in **public housing** managed by local Public Housing Authorities can contact **Rhode Island Legal Services** at (401) 274-2652 x123 or visit www.helprilaw.org

Both non-profit law centers may provide Pro Bono (free) civil legal assistance to low-income Rhode Islanders.

Families utilizing Section 8 should not anticipate a delay in rent or utility payments. If your home has a health or safety emergency, notify your landlord and call RIHousing at (401) 457-1125 or email scheduling@rihousing.com.

Safe Harbor Housing Program

The **Safe Harbor Housing Program** is an eviction diversion program made to help Rhode Island landlords and tenants resolve disputes over late or unpaid rent without having to go through the traditional court process.

For households that qualify, Safe Harbor can help with up to six months of rent arrearages accumulated after March 1st, 2020. Legal services may be available for renters.

Who qualifies?

Help from the Safe Harbor Program is available for income-eligible tenants who are experiencing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 emergency and are at risk of eviction as a result.

Interested tenants and landlords can call **2-1-1 or complete the online forms and start the screening and application process.**

Visit www.uwri.org/2-1-1/safe-harbor-housing-program/ to learn more and to apply.

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Mortgage Assistance

If you are concerned about your ability to make your mortgage payments due to the pandemic, find help at www.rihousing.com/homeowner-assistance/ or call **401-457-1130**.

If you have experienced a disruption in your income, continue to make your monthly mortgage payments, if possible, then contact your lender/ mortgage servicer to discuss your options and ask about any special programs or delayed payment options available.



Visit www.rihousing.com/covid19-rhode-island-homeowners for tips on how to talk to your mortgage servicer. Read more about how RIHousing is responding during the COVID-19 emergency at www.rihousing.com/covid-19.

Utilities Assistance

Rhode Islanders needing energy assistance at this time can reach out to their local **Community Action Program**. Households where income was impacted by the COVID-19 crisis may qualify for programs like the **Good Neighbors Energy Fund**, **LIHEAP**, and **National Grid discounts**.

Low-income households, including families with SNAP or Medicaid, are eligible for the **A-60 discounted rate** from National Grid that provides savings on gas and electric bills.

Thanks to the advocacy of the **George Wiley Center**, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has extended the moratorium on utilities shut-offs for customers enrolled in the A-60 rate through November 1st, 2020. Since November 1st is the start of the winter moratorium, families are protected from shut-off due to non-payment until April 2021!

Call **2-1-1** or visit www.ricommunityaction.org to find your local CAP agency.

Call 1-800-322-3223 or visit www.ngrid.com/ridiscount to see if your household qualifies for the A-60 rate.

For help with utility issues, call the George Wiley Center at **(401) 728-5555**.



Capital Good Fund Crisis Relief Loans

This loan was developed by the Capital Good Fund to help those financially impacted by COVID-19. This loan can be used for (but is not limited to) paying utilities, covering medical bills, paying rent, and purchasing groceries.

Visit www.capitalgoodfund.org/loans/crisisloan to see if you qualify and to apply.

If you are experiencing homelessness

Find a nearby shelter or call the **Coordinated Entry System** at **(401) 277-4316**.

Visit www.rihomeless.org/meal-sites or rifoodbank.org/find-food for emergency food assistance.

Visit rihomeless.org/constituent-resources for more resources including a map of shelters and sanitation stations.

If you are homeless and have tested positive for COVID-19 or are under quarantine, contact the **RI Department of Health** at **(401) 222-8022** for temporary housing and transportation funding.

