Rent, Mortgage, and Legal Resources
Resources for Pittsburghers to Prevent Eviction during the COVID-19 Pandemic

ERAP
The Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is available if you’ve lost your job or experienced financial hardship since March 13, 2020. You may be eligible if:
- at least one person in your household qualifies for unemployment, has lost income, or suffered financially due to COVID-19
- at least one person in your household is at risk of experiencing homelessness if they don’t get help
- your household’s total income is below 80% of the Area Median Income for Allegheny County

Residents of Allegheny County can apply at covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us. If you can’t get online or need help filling it out, contact ACTION-Housing at 412-248-0021 or rentalassistance@actionhousing.org.

HEMAP
The Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP) was created by Act 91 of 1983, and was designed to protect Pennsylvanians who, through no fault of their own, are financially unable to make their mortgage payments and are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure. HEMAP is appropriate for 1- or 2-family homes that are not primarily used for business purposes. If you have questions about your eligibility for HEMAP, you can contact ACTION Housing (action-mort@actionhousing.org) or NeighborWorks of Western Pennsylvania (info@neighborworkswpa.org).

HARP
The Housing Assistance Resources Portal (HARP) for the City of Pittsburgh is a guide that offers housing-related resources whether you are interested in renting, currently renting, interested in buying a house, a current home-owner, a landlord, or currently experiencing homelessness. If you are experiencing a housing crisis, please visit: pittsburghpa.gov/harp/

Allegheny Link
The Allegheny Link provides person centered resource navigation in an effort to help people maintain their independence, dignity, and quality of life. The Allegheny Link also provides a single access point for the Coordinated Entry System providing fair, equal, and streamlined access to homeless services in Allegheny County. Contact the Allegheny Link by phone at 1-866-730-2368 or online at alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/About/Contact/Allegheny-Link.aspx

Housing Opportunity Fund Programs
The Housing Opportunity Fund, administered by the URA (412.255.6600, hof@ura.org, ura.org/pages/housing-opportunity-fund-programs), provides funding to a set of programs intended to stabilize housing in Pittsburgh. These programs include:

The Small Landlord Fund
Provides funding to landlords with ten (10) or less units for the preservation of existing affordable rental housing and / or the conversion of market/vacant housing to affordable housing in the City of Pittsburgh.

Housing Stabilization Program
The Housing Stabilization Program (HSP) is a housing crisis intervention program that provides one-time or short term (up to 3 months) financial assistance to households who are facing a temporary, non-recurring housing crisis. To see if you are eligible for the program, please contact United Way 2-1-1 by Texting your ZIP code to United Way at 898-211, or Dial 2-1-1 from your phone, or by chatroom at pa211sw.org.
Legal Assistance
The Center for Housing Opportunities has partnered with Neighborhood Legal Services to assist individuals in the Tangled-Title and Eviction Prevention legal assistance. New Legal Assistance Program coming April 2021 which will include mediation, limited legal consultation and full legal representation for tenants, as well as tangled title and foreclosure prevention for homeowners.

RentHelpPGH
RentHelpPGH is a coordinated project of the Hill District Consensus Group, Community Justice Project, the CREATE Lab at Carnegie Mellon University, and the Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation to help more Allegheny County residents access the services they need and to quantify the impact of direct service work performed by Community Based Organizations. RentHelpPGH assists residents of Allegheny County in obtaining legal and financial assistance in order to avoid eviction and to help residents access resources that will stabilize their household and create an environment in which they can thrive. Contact REntHelpPGH: (412) 534-6600 for English, or (412) 530-5244 for Spanish or email support@renthelppgh.zendesk.com.

Emergency Solutions Grants
The purpose of the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program is to assist individuals and families quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness. ESG provides grants by formula to states, metropolitan cities, urban counties and U.S. territories to support homelessness prevention, emergency shelter and related services. For more information regarding the ESG program please visit pittsburghpa.gov/omb/esg.

This resource list is compiled by the Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations and was last updated on April 9, 2021. For additional housing resources, visit pittsburghpa.gov/harp/.
THE MEDIATION PROCESS

Mediation is a free, confidential, voluntary process in which a neutral mediator helps people find solutions to their housing dispute. A mediator does not serve as a judge or lawyer, but simply facilitates a dialogue that helps mediation parties better understand each other and construct positive solutions for themselves. If an agreement is reached, it is enforceable in court but the details discussed in mediation are confidential.

1. REFERRAL TO JMP
   The landlord and/or tenant completes an intake form if available or contacts JMP requesting mediation.

2. PHONE CALL
   Phone call to determine if mediation is appropriate. Both parties must be willing to share their perspective, listen to the other party share theirs, and be open to creating constructive solutions.

3. PREMEDIATION CALL
   Premediation call with community mediator to prepare and ask questions about the process.

4. MEDIATION
   Mediation (up to 3 hours) to create a shared, legally binding Agreement with the other party.

5. FOLLOW UP
   Follow up by JMP with the referral source to indicate completion of mediation.

CHOOSE MEDIATION IF:
- You have a dispute with your landlord that is putting your housing at risk
- Uncertain life circumstances require you to negotiate a way forward
- A tenant or landlord needs assistance managing a housing conflict
- A tenant or landlord thinks a mediator would help them resolve a communication breakdown

BENEFITS OF MEDIATION:
- Mediation is FREE
- Mediation is an alternative to court that allows you to solve your problems rather than a judge
- Mediation involves neutral ‘third parties’ called mediators who are trained to help parties talk directly and decide how to settle their differences
- Mediation is accessible, and will be scheduled at a time and place that is as convenient for you as possible
- Mediation is faster and easier to understand than a court process
- Mediation allows for your voice to be heard and gives you an equal share in shaping the outcome

If you are interested in mediation services, visit justmediationpgh.org to request mediation or contact JMP at 412-228-0730 or info@justmediationpgh.org