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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YCAP DISTRIBUTING COVID-19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE IN YAMHILL COUNTY

Yamhill County, OR – YCAP continues its response to COVID-19 by helping individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless because they are unable to pay their rent. At the end of May, YCAP received \$197,192 in funds from the COVID-19 Rent Relief Program (CVRRP) instituted by the Oregon legislature and dispersed from the Oregon Emergency Fund. YCAP is partnering with Oregon Housing & Community Services (OHCS) to ensure these funds will be properly distributed in Yamhill County. In addition, YCAP also received a generous Providence Health & Service COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant Award of \$20,000. To date, YCAP has screened and qualified 94 households for this program. Of that number, about half have already had payments made to their landlords totaling approximately \$80,000 in disbursements for unpaid rent. The initial program was for households who had been impacted by COVID-19 and whose income was 50% or less than the Average Median Income (AMI) for our area.

Due to community action agencies' ability to disburse these funds in a timely manner, YCAP received last week an additional \$1,212,149 in Federal funding via the Oregon Emergency Board to continue this program for the remainder of the year. To handle this volume of work, YCAP has hired two additional staff, one of whom is bilingual, to ensure these funds can be dispersed quickly and in accordance with the guidelines. One significant change is that the income eligibility for the program has been adjusted. Now, households whose income is 80% or less the Average Median Income for our area will be eligible! All funds are paid directly to the landlord.

These funds are designated for rent assistance to individuals and families who experienced a loss of income, have compromised health conditions, and are at risk of homelessness due to the COVID-19. While the household must have 80% or below the median income, this calculation does not include the \$600 supplemental unemployment income issued during the COVID-19 pandemic and is also impacted by applicable deductions. Below is a general guideline for eligibility, but if you are unsure about qualifying, please contact us:

| Household Size | Income |
|----------------|----------|
| 1 person | \$51,600 |
| 2 persons | \$59,000 |
| 3 persons | \$66,350 |
| 4 persons | \$73,700 |
| 5 persons | \$79,600 |
| 6 persons | \$85,500 |

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|-----------|----------|
| 7 persons | \$91,400 |
| 8 persons | \$97,300 |

For those who qualify, they can start the process today of requesting assistance by completing an initial online screening form at www.anydooryamhill.org or call 503-687-1494.

Each family has their own story of struggling with COVID-19, and one of them wrote the following about their experience and gave us permission to share it:

“This pandemic has put my family in such a debt I honestly didn't know how we were going to come out of it. Both my boyfriend and I had to stop working due to the Covid-19 since we are both self-employed. We have applied for unemployment which still hasn't been paid and bills just continue to pile up. I am not one to ask for help because I believe it is my responsibility to take care of my family. But I reached out to YCAP and within a few hours of me sending an email they got back to me. Got me through to everyone I needed to talk to. They were so kind, helpful, and didn't for one second make me feel embarrassed for needing the help. I am SO thankful, beyond words for YCAP and the help it has given my family. I can now take a sigh of relief that my family is not going to lose their housing, or how we would pay off our rental arrears. I really appreciate all the help and I could never express how truly grateful my family and I are that they helped us in our darkest of times. THANK YOU YCAP.” -COVID-19 Rent Relief Client

YCAP acknowledges the great uncertainty and challenges facing many families during COVID-19, and is committed to mobilizing all available resources to help. YCAP will continue to work diligently over the next months to ensure those that qualify and need assistance receive this COVID-19 relief funding. YCAP's focus is on individuals and families that are unstably housed, who are at risk of losing their housing, have been told to vacate or are at a high risk of losing current housing, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing. We truly appreciate the support of the Oregon legislature, Providence, OHCS, the Oregon Emergency Board, and the local donors that make this work possible!

As the situation continues to evolve, YCAP will post additional updates on its Facebook Page located at <https://www.facebook.com/YamhillCAP/>. Thank you for your patience and trust as we navigate through these challenging circumstances with your safety at the forefront of everything we do.

News Release



Oregon Housing and Community Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2020

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State Distributes \$70 Million in COVID-19 Rental Relief and Energy Assistance

Oregonians can access assistance by calling 211 or visiting 211info.org

SALEM, OR – Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) is distributing \$55,000,000 in COVID rental relief funds and \$15,000,000 in Energy Assistance to local organizations statewide.

“Rental and energy assistance provides immediate relief to people in crisis,” said OHCS Executive Director Margaret Salazar, “I am very happy we were able to act swiftly to get these additional resources into communities to help our friends and neighbors who are struggling to make ends meet.”

At the June Joint Emergency Board meeting, state lawmakers unanimously allocated \$95 million in Coronavirus Relief funds to OHCS for housing stabilization, rent assistance and energy assistance. \$55,000,000 is dedicated to emergency rental assistance. These resources will augment the COVID Rent Relief Program [announced by the state in May](#). Eligible tenants must have had their ability to pay rent impacted by the COVID pandemic and live at or below 80% in Area Media Income (AMI) of the county for which they reside.

“This rent relief will help to ease the financial strain on Oregon families who have been unable to pay rent due to COVID-19, but we have more work to do,” said Governor Kate Brown. “I will continue to work with legislative leaders, community partners, and Oregon Housing and Community Services to help Oregonians who are struggling financially to stay housed during this pandemic.”





The rental relief funds were distributed to Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the state. The Oregon Legislature also provided \$15,000,000 in Energy Assistance to Oregonians financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Oregonians concerned about their ability to make upcoming rent payments or concerned about keeping the lights on should contact 211 to find out about assistance options in their area. CAAs and key partners are taking applications for assistance from residents in their service area. These services are provided free of charge by CAAs.

To find out how to access these resources in your area visit 211info.org or call 2-1-1. The full list of Community Action Agencies, funding allocation amounts and service territories with contact information can be found [HERE](#).

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