

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

# Minneapolis COVID Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Presentation to Business,  
Inspections, Housing and Zoning  
Committee

# Presentation Overview

1. Program building blocks - Lessons learned from Gap Funds Program
2. Minneapolis COVID Emergency Rental Assistance Program framework
3. Outreach strategies and policy initiatives
4. How to access funds
  - Eligibility requirements
  - How to prepare to apply

# Program Building Blocks - Lessons Learned from Gap Funds

- Creating a one-stop application for assistance programs across jurisdictions
- Working with trusted community partners to provide outreach, program navigation, and application review
- Minimizing waiting time between application and assistance determination
- Making up-to-date status information to applicants readily available

# Minneapolis COVID Emergency Rental Assistance Program Framework

- Collaboration with State of Minnesota and local jurisdictions to create one application
- Trusted local partners will administer the program
  - Tenant-based and landlord-based application
- Issuing RFP to hire housing assistance navigators to provide additional support to applicants
- Coordination with state and Hennepin County on “waterfall” approach to processing applications

# Outreach Strategies & Policy Initiatives

## Outreach strategies

- Social media, city website, cultural radio programs, outreach to property owners
- State-led outreach campaign and kick-off event
- [RentHelpMN](#)

## Policy Initiatives

- Just Cause & Eviction Pre-Filing Notice policies – May 2021
- Eviction representation funding

# Basic Eligibility Requirements

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Has a household income at or below 80% of area median
- Priorities established in bill:
  - Unemployed for 90 days or more at time of application
  - Household income at or below 50% of area median

# How to get ready to apply

Criteria	Documentation		Exception
<b>Income</b>	2020 federal tax return* W2s or other wage statements Paystubs Banks statements Attestation from employer, caseworker, or other professional with knowledge of income	Unemployment insurance statement Determination from an agency that has verified income since Jan 1, 2020	Self-attestation of income  <i>May only be used when income is not verifiable due to impact of COVID-19, has been received in cash, or has no qualifying income</i>
<b>Unemployment</b>	Unemployment insurance documentation		
<b>Rent &amp; Utilities Owed</b>	Signed lease with rent amounts Past due notice Rent ledger or attestation by landlord	Utility bills Past due notices	Self-attestation of rent owed  <i>May only receive 3 months of assistance at HUD Fair Market Rents</i>
<b>Housing Instability</b>	Past due rent or utility notices Utility shut off notice Eviction notice		

\*Preferred documentation

# Questions

Katie Topinka

[Katie.topinka@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Katie.topinka@minneapolismn.gov)

Jamie Radel

[Jamie.radel@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Jamie.radel@minneapolismn.gov)

