



Talking Points Emergency Rental Assistance

- According to information released from the Census Bureau Survey and its “Household Pulse Survey”, 46.3 percent of renters that were surveyed report being unemployed;
- Job losses are particularly acute for low income and minority households.
- The Supplemental Unemployment Benefits have been critical to the ability of impacted households to pay for rent and other necessities will expire July 31;
- According to the Urban Institute without state unemployment insurance and the CARES Act \$600 weekly supplement; it will cost \$5.5 billion a month to bring renter households back to their previous rent-to-income ratios;
- It is anticipated that affected households will need support for three to nine months;
- Eviction suspensions are a short- term fix but rents would continue to accrue, making it unlikely that hourly workers will ever be able to catch up when they return to work;
- Unpaid rents will destabilize the rental housing industry and lead to the loss of affordable apartments;
- Supplemental funding to existing renters receiving subsidies is essential and should be increased as necessary to enable tenant rent adjustments to reflect reduced income;
- An emergency rental assistance program is needed for households that are not receiving rental subsidies to provide temporary support to enable renters to focus their limited resources on food, health care and other essentials;
- The current network of local and state housing agencies/authorities under the current Section 8 program would be an efficient delivery system of the funding and should be directed to urban, suburban and rural areas or a PPP like program that can reimburse housing providers for unpaid rent through the Treasury.

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