

ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR RENT DUE TO COVID-19?

The following checklist outlines the steps that can help you avoid eviction:

- APPLY FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE.**
 - Visit the COVID-19 Housing Information page:
<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Housing-and-Community-Development/COVID-19-Housing-Information>.
 - Contact one of the participating providers to complete an application for assistance.
 - Ask your landlord if there is any **State** governmental assistance available for you through the Maryland Community Development Administration.
 - If assistance is denied or unavailable, request a written and dated statement confirming the denial or unavailability.
 - Send this statement to housing@howardcountymd.gov to receive a signed Acknowledgement of Government Assistance form from the County.

- MAKE PARTIAL RENT PAYMENTS** – Pay whatever you can afford. You may not be covered by federal and state protections.

- SUBMIT THE CDC RESIDENT DECLARATION FORM TO LANDLORD**

Based on updated order by the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), your landlord cannot evict you until ***after January 31, 2021*** if you have submitted a completed form. Visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Departments/Housing-and-Community-Development/COVID-19-Housing-Information> to obtain a CDC Resident Declaration Form.

- NEGOTIATE A PAYMENT PLAN WITH YOUR LANDLORD.** Without a payment plan in place, your landlord can require full payment of the entire amount of your delinquent rent when the federal, state and county eviction protections end. Failure to pay *in full* at that time could lead to eviction. For help, contact:
 - MakingChange* (<https://makingchangecenter.org>, 443-518-7648)
 - Maryland Legal Aid* (www.mdlab.org, 800-666-8330 or 410-480-1057)
 - Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center* (www.mcrchoward.org, 443-518-7693).

- ASK FOR FREE LEGAL ADVICE.** *Maryland Legal Aid* will help you understand your rights and what you can do to avoid eviction if you receive a notice from your landlord to leave your home.

- SHOW UP IN COURT** if you receive a notice to appear in court. Even with protections in place, landlords can still file rent and eviction cases. If you fail to appear in court, the court can automatically rule against you.
 - [Maryland Legal Aid](http://www.mdlab.org) will represent you in court for free. Call (410) 480-1057 or visit www.mdlab.org.
 - Go to court prepared. Bring the CDC Resident Declaration Form(s) and supporting documentation with you.
 - For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-eviction-declaration.html>.

This guidance is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice.