

News Release



Oregon Housing and Community Services

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After historic effort to keep Oregon renters housed during the pandemic, statewide Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program to close on March 14

More than \$289 million in federal emergency rental assistance paid to more than 40,000 households throughout the pandemic

SALEM, ORE. – Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) announced [during a media briefing today](#) that the Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP) Portal will close and stop accepting new applications on March 14, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. PT. The portal reopened on Jan. 26, 2022, for a limited time after the Oregon State Legislature allocated \$100 million to support renters facing eviction. The state had paused accepting new application on Dec. 1, 2021, due to dwindling federal funds.

Due to demonstrated ongoing need and feedback from community and housing stakeholders, OHCS has redirected additional resources to help tenants applying for OERAP. Nearly \$13 million in funds have been redirected to more renters applying for assistance. The additional funds will support an estimated 1,900 households. Upon review, applications will be approved for payment or denied, this decision will be made based upon [the highest need](#), not on a first come first served basis.

During this historic crisis, the agency served as a national leader in providing rental assistance to more than 40,500 households, which means that an estimated 104,600 people in households served have been able to stay safely and affordably housed during the pandemic. Only [three](#) other states have provided a higher percentage of assistance according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, ranking Oregon 4th in the nation in the percentage of emergency rental assistance funds paid out and obligated. More than \$289 million has been paid in the past nine months.



“The additional resources have allowed OHCS to keep the portal open longer than initially estimated. Oregon renters will have more time. Those who have applied—or will apply for OERAP—will be protected from eviction until their application is processed,” said Jill Smith, interim director of Housing Stabilization at OHCS. “This program was set up as a temporary program to assist the people most impacted by the pandemic and, unfortunately, it will soon be coming to an end.”

Information for renters about portal closure

The OERAP portal will remain open until March 14, 2022, thanks to the additional \$13 million. Here’s some important information for renters:

- If a person has previously submitted an application, or began an application, the portal closure will not impact them immediately. Those applications that were previously submitted will still be processed.
- Applicants can continue to log on to the OERAP portal to complete their application or check the status of their finished application. They will be alerted by email as their application advances.
- Anyone who has not applied for OERAP in the past and has fallen behind on rent is encouraged to apply for emergency rental assistance before 11:59 p.m. March 14, 2022, at oregonrentalassistance.org.

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