



NEWS AND NEIGHBORS

Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority

December 2021

Volume 28, Issue 12

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

~

December 21

Winter begins

December 25

Christmas Day



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2022

Scholarship Applications are available for Youth and Adults

January 3, 2022
thru
March 18, 2022



For more information, contact Mrs. Charlene Bowser at (757) 928-6170

Family Investment Center



FREE TRAINING PROGRAMS

The Family Investment Center offers free training in the following courses:

- CNA;
- Self-Paced Typing;
- Employability Skills Workshops;
- Resume and Interviewing Prep;
- Job Lead Assistance;
- Homeownership.

The Family Investment Center

Monday thru Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
757.928.3680

PROGRAMA LIBRE DE INSTRUCCION

Centro de Trabajo Para la Familia ofrece los Cursos que sigue:

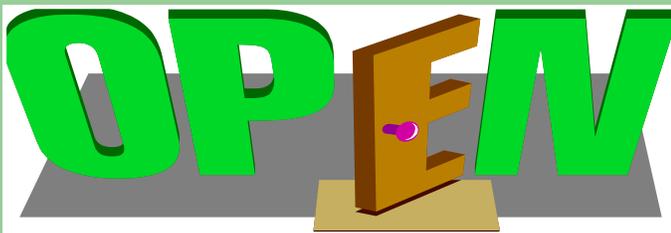
- Mecanografía;
- Habilidades de obrero;
- Ayuda con su resumen y su entrevista;
- Como se encuentra trabajo;
- Como encontrar y poseer una casa.

Centro de Trabajo
Para La Familia

Lunes—Viernes

8 de la mañana-
4:30 de la tarde

757.928.3680 ingles
757.928.6146 espanol



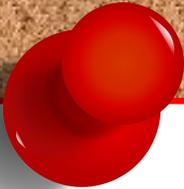
The waiting list for housing assistance at the Warwick SRO is open for single room occupancy only.

Please call (757) 928-6060, Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Marshall	928-6181
Ashe Manor	928-6187
Aqueduct	833-5700
Pincroft	269-4300
Orcutt Townhomes	928-6187
Community Resources	928-6063
Family Investment Center	928-3680



Information for Tenants

The U.S. Department of Treasury's ("Treasury") Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program makes funding available to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities. The funds were provided directly to states, U.S. territories, local governments, and (in case of the first program, ERA1) to Indian tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities, as applicable, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Grantees use the funds to assist eligible households through existing or newly created rental assistance programs.

In guidance and [FAQs](#), Treasury advised that participants in HUD-assisted rental programs (including the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV), Public Housing, or Project-Based Rental Assistance programs) are eligible for the ERA program and may receive assistance for the tenant-owed portion of rent or utilities that is not subsidized. In [FAQs](#) for PHAs and HCV landlords, PIH clarified that this assistance can include rent arrearages and utilities owed over the utility allowance. The [FAQs](#) include additional guidance on interim reexaminations, income calculations, and additional considerations for private landlords participating in the HCV program.

To learn more about how to apply for ERA go to: **Virginia Rent Relief Program by visiting:**

<https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp> or calling 703-962-1884

You may contact 2-1-1 Virginia to determine the availability of any additional rent relief programs by visiting: <https://211virginia.org> or calling 211.

You may wish to contact your local legal aid program for free legal assistance to low-income people by visiting:

<https://www.valegalaid.org/find-legal-help> or calling 1-866-LEGALAID (1-866-534-5243).

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for temporary protection from eviction under the laws of your State, territory, locality, or tribal area, or under Federal law.

Visit <http://www.cfpb.gov/eviction> or call a housing counselor at 800-569-4287 to learn more.

State and local ERA grantees can also be accessed from [Treasury's website](#) using the link ["Find rental assistance in your area."](#)

Leases may not be terminated due to nonpayment of rent until at least 30 days have passed after a tenant receives this notice.



Struggling to pay your rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

The Virginia Rent Relief Program may be able to help

Virginia is administering relief for renters experiencing a negative financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic through the Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP). Through this state program, you can apply (or your landlord may apply on your behalf) to receive funds to pay delinquent rent arrear payments back to April 1, 2020, and up to three months of payments into the future to maintain housing stability. The total payments may not exceed a total of 15 months of rental assistance per household.



Eligibility

The Virginia RRP will provide financial help on behalf of renters who meet the following criteria:

- Have a valid lease agreement in their name or other documents confirming the landlord-tenant relationship, and live in the unit at time of application
- Have a rent amount that is at or below **150% Fair Market Rent**
- Have a gross household income at or below **80% of the area median income**
- Have experienced a financial hardship directly or indirectly due to the coronavirus pandemic including but not limited to:
 - Being laid off
 - Place of employment has closed
 - Reduction in hours of work
 - Loss of spousal/child support
 - Inability to find work due to COVID-19
 - Having to stay home with children due to distance learning / closure of day care or school
 - Increase in expenses due to COVID-19, such as child care, medical bills, etc.
 - Unwilling or unable to participate in previous employment due to the workplace's high risk of severe illness from COVID-19



Required documents

You'll need the following as proof of eligibility:

- Proof of income (for example: pay stubs, bank statements, letter from employer, Social Security documents, pension)
- Valid lease or other documentation of landlord-tenant relationship
- Rent ledger (landlord provides)
- Completed application and agreements
- Virginia W-9

Learn More & Apply:

Contact your landlord today to apply on your behalf. This is the quickest way to access rent relief.

Or apply for yourself. Get started on DHCD's website: **dhcd.virginia.gov/eligibility**



The Virginia Rent Relief Program is administered through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Virginia Housing is the grantee for landlord-initiated applicants. For more information, visit dhcd.virginia.gov/rrp.



¿Luchando para Poder Pagar su Alquiler debido a la pandemia de COVID-19?

Usted podría ser elegible para recibir asistencia financiera a través del Programa de Alivio de Alquiler de Virginia.

Virginia está administrando fondos de alivio para inquilinos que estén experimentando un impacto financiero negativo debido a la pandemia de COVID-19 a través del Programa de Alivio de Alquiler de Virginia (RRP). A través de este programa, usted puede aplicar (o su arrendador puede aplicar a su nombre) para recibir fondos para cubrir los pagos atrasados de su alquiler a partir del 1 de abril de 2020 y hasta tres meses de pagos en el futuro para mantener la estabilidad de la vivienda. Los pagos totales no pueden exceder un total de 15 meses de asistencia para el alquiler por hogar.



Elegibilidad

El RRP de Virginia brindará ayuda financiera a nombre de los inquilinos que cumplan con los siguientes requisitos:

- Tener un contrato de arrendamiento válido a su nombre u otra documentación que confirme la relación entre el propietario y el inquilino y ocupar la unidad en el momento de la aplicación
- El pago total del alquiler del hogar es igual o menor al **150% del alquiler justo del mercado**
- Tener un ingreso familiar bruto igual o menor al **80% del ingreso medio del área**
- Haber experimentado dificultades financieras (directa o indirectamente) debido a la pandemia de coronavirus, incluyendo, entre otros:
 - Haber sido despedido
 - Su lugar de trabajo ha cerrado
 - Reducción de horas de trabajo
 - Pérdida de la manutención del cónyuge / hijos
 - Incapacidad para encontrar trabajo debido a COVID-19
 - Tener que quedarse en casa con sus niños debido al cierre de la guardería / escuela
 - Aumento en gastos debido a COVID-19, como cuidado de niños, facturas médicas, etc.
 - No estar dispuesto o no poder participar en su empleo anterior debido a que su enfermedad lo hace ser considerado de alto riesgo al contagio de COVID-19



Documentos requeridos

Necesitará lo siguiente como prueba de elegibilidad:

- Comprobante de ingresos (por ejemplo: recibos de pago, estados de cuenta bancarios, carta del empleador, documentos del seguro social, pensión)
- Contrato de arrendamiento válido u otra documentación que compruebe la relación propietario-inquilino
- Libro de contabilidad de alquiler
- Solicitud y acuerdos completados
- W-9 de Virginia

Aprenda Más y Aplique:

Comuníquese con su arrendador hoy para que presente una solicitud a su nombre. Esta es la forma más rápida de acceder al alivio del alquiler.

O aplique usted mismo. Comience visitando el sitio web de DHCD: dhcd.virginia.gov/eligibility



El programa de alivio de alquiler de Virginia es administrado a través del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de Virginia. Virginia Housing es el administrador para las solicitudes iniciadas por el propietario. Para obtener más información, visite dhcd.virginia.gov/rrp.

The Apprentice School of Newport News Shipbuilding



The Apprentice School of Newport News Shipbuilding offers four, five, and eight year, tuition-free apprenticeships in 28 occupations to qualified men and women. Apprentices work a regular 40-hour week and are paid for all work, including time spent in academic classes.

An apprenticeship is a formal training program which allows a worker to receive thorough instruction and experience-both theoretical and practical-in the various aspects of a skilled trade. Today's apprentices are fully trained, well paid men and women acquiring skills and knowledge that will serve them well throughout their careers.

Please visit the website or call for additional information:
www.as.edu or (757) 380-3809.

The Apprentice School-Newport News Shipbuilding -
A Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries

There is another reason to file your 2020 tax return

Recent changes to the Child Tax Credit

The American Rescue Plan Act provides for an ADVANCE CHILD TAX CREDIT.
The Child Tax Credit will now be available through advance payments during 2021.

Here's what you need to know about the Advanced Child Tax Credit:

- **You should file a 2020 tax return.** Your eligibility for the credit will likely be based upon the information you report on your 2020 tax return.
- **The credit amount increased.** The credit amount has been increased from \$2,000 to \$3,600 for children under 6, and to \$3,000 for other children under 18.
- **Get payments ASAP.** Individuals eligible for a 2021 Child Tax Credit can receive a portion of the credit in advance, via payments starting July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
- **Online Portal to update information.** The law requires the IRS to create a new online portal through which families can update their information for the credit. More specific information about the portal is not yet available.
- **The credit was expanded to include children aged 17 years old.** Children 17 years old and younger will now be covered by the Child Tax Credit.

Are you eligible for the Child Tax Credit (CTC)?

A child generally qualifies you for the CTC if the child meets all of the following conditions:

1. The child is your son, daughter, stepchild, eligible foster child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, or a descendant of any of them.
2. The child was under age 17 at the end of 2020.
3. The child did not provide over half of his or her own support for 2020.
4. The child lived with you for more than half of 2020 (some exceptions may apply).
5. The child is claimed as a dependent on your tax return.
6. The child does not file a joint tax return for the year.
7. The child was a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or U.S. resident alien.

The Community Tax Law Project

Telephone: 804-358-5855 • E-mail: Info@ctlp.org

*This information is correct as of 3/25/2021. We are waiting for the IRS to release further guidance on certain topics such as what to do for the advanced CTC when children are moving between parents or households or in shared custody situations.

This information is not legal advice. We are providing this information as a public service. We have tried to make it accurate as of the date below, but keep in mind that tax laws change frequently. CTLP is a nonprofit organization that provides free legal help to low-income taxpayers who have tax problems. CTLP receives funding from the IRS but is not part of the IRS or the Virginia Department of Taxation. Your decision to use CTLP will not affect your rights before the IRS.

Coronavirus: Keeping you informed

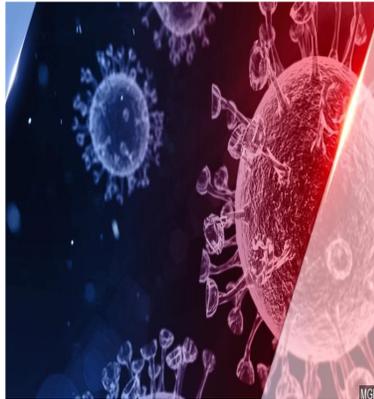
Coronavirus Update from the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

During times of crisis, the Foodbank plays an important role in meeting community needs. In response to the coronavirus, the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank has been working to provide food to people who might otherwise go hungry.

The Foodbank's Mobile Food Pantry Program is distributing food in high-traffic spots across the peninsula and they are working with partner agencies to ensure people receive the food they desperately need. The team from the Foodbank's Culinary Training Program is preparing breakfast and lunch grab-and-go bags for children throughout our local area. The Foodbank has also hosted several large-scale public food distribution events to help individuals and families struggling to locate healthy meals. During a distribution event in Newport News last week, they provided food to support 500 households.

If you are struggling to get the food you and your family need, please visit the Get Help page on the Foodbank's website to locate a mobile food pantry or partner agency that can help. Please call prior to visiting to confirm hours of operation, as distribution plans change quickly and without much notice.

Due to the increased demand for food in grocery stores, the Foodbank has seen a significant decrease in food pick-ups and store donations, which means personal donations are even more important. You can still drop food donations off at their Hampton headquarters at 2401 Aluminum Avenue. All donations are quarantined for 72 hours before they are available to be distributed. You can make a monetary donation to help purchase truckloads of supplies, donate through YouGiveGoods or purchase through online retailers to ship items directly to the Foodbank's doors. For additional information on any of these options, you can contact Tracy Hansbrough at thansbrough@hrfoodbank.org.

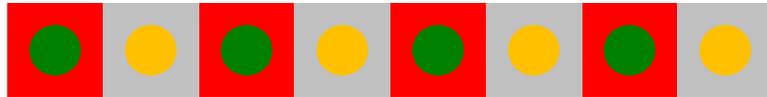


NEWPORT NEWS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Call center is open 8 AM - 6 PM

Please call 757-594-7069

If you have questions about where to
get tested if you are experiencing
COVID-19 symptoms.



We encourage you to self-report illness or quarantine if you are not feeling well. This will prevent spreading the COVID 19 to your loved ones and friends.

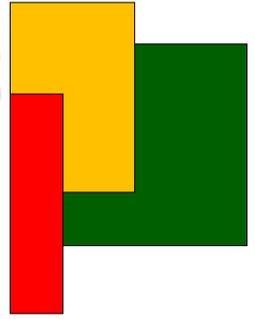
General Overtime Guidelines

Maintenance staff will respond to the following calls:

1. Gas Leaks;
2. Electrical Problems;
3. Smoke Detector;
4. Power Outages (only at Pinecroft, Ashe Manor, Spratley House and Marshall);
5. No Heat between 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:00 am on Sunday or holidays if the next day is a working day. If the next day is not a working day, accepts calls until 6:00 p.m.
6. Floods and Sewer Problems;
7. Broken Windows;
8. Collapsed ceiling or damaged roofs;
9. Commode stopped up (if two in apartment hold to next day if that is a normal business day);
10. Lock Out/Lock Change;
11. Damaged Exterior Doors;
12. Fire.

Note to Residents: If you believe the situation can wait until the next day, call first thing in the morning.

Manager's Corner



After Hours Guidelines

Marshall	928-6154
Spratley House	928-6187
Ashe Manor	928-6187
Aqueduct	833-5700
Pinecroft	269-4300
Orcutt Townhomes	928-6187



Please use this number ONLY after 5:00 p.m.
(757) 247-0484

Marshall 928-6181

All Tenants should contact their rental office about proper installation of cable and satellite tv before being installed by the company.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NNRHA) is to create affordable housing, viable neighborhoods, and opportunities for self-sufficiency that enhance the quality of life for all citizens of Newport News.



EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

WHAT IS IT?

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic.

The benefit provides:

- Up to \$50/month discount for broadband services;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A household is eligible if one member of the household:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guide lines or participates in certain government assistance programs;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch or breakfast program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

THREE WAYS TO APPLY

1

Contact your preferred participating provider directly to learn about their application process.

2

Go to [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.getemergencybroadband.org) to submit an application and to find participating providers near you.

3

Complete a mail in application and send it along with proof of eligibility to:

Emergency Broadband Support Center
P.O. Box 7081
London, KY 40742

LEARN MORE

 Call 833-511-0311, or

 Visit [fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)

New phone rules start in April



Hampton Roads residents are reminded that the Virginia State Corporation Commission has approved a new 948 area code for the Hampton Roads region. Beginning May 9, 2022, new telephone lines or services may be assigned numbers using the new 948 area code. The new code, or overlay does not require customers to change their existing area code or telephone number, but it will require using a new dialing procedure to complete calls.

Area residents are encouraged to practice dialing phone numbers using all 10 digits (area code and phone number), and to reprogram telephone contact lists, life safety systems, medical monitoring systems, and other devices so they include both the phone number and the area code. You will still be able to dial just three digits to reach 911 and similar numbers.

Beginning April 9, all local calls made in the 757 area code will not be connected if only seven digits are dialed.



Newport News YouthBuild (NNYB), will provide young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 in the City of Newport News the following training programs.

For those eligible, but have not graduated from high school, the opportunity to earn a high school diploma or a state recognized qualification, e.g., GED;

Attend a 6 month Work Force Development program that trains students in carpentry, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing. The student receives a bi-monthly stipend to assist with daily incidentals while attending the program.

Providing young adults with education and training in construction trades will lead to nationally and industry-recognized certifications such as OSHA and CPR. YouthBuild programs are intended for young adults to become successful with fulfilling and sustainable careers.

The educational requirements in NNYB will get addressed with GED instructors. Construction trades training will be achieved using curricula developed by the National Center for Construction Education and Research, NCCER, and delivered at the Dour Oaks Day Training Center, 6402 Warwick Boulevard. Newport News, VA 23607. The facilitators are local, seasoned and experienced trainers.

Please contact Minister Daniel Carrera at 757-975-5204 or email

Newport News YouthBuild: youthbuildinfo@voaches.org for additional information.

REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE



We all know the heartache and devastation that drugs can bring to our families.

If you or anyone you know and love is affected by substance abuse help is available.

Program Name	Services	Payment
Tidewater Area Hot Line 459-8467	Narcotics Anonymous	No fees
Narcotics Anonymous VA Regional Hot Line 1-800-777-1515	Support group for recovering substance abusers.	No fees
Hampton Roads Clinic Reflections 827-8430	Outpatient Counseling I.V. Methadone Maintenance 30-45 day Residential Facility	Sliding fee Scale Medicaid
Project Link 245-0217	Case management and coordination services for prenatal abuser	Sliding fee Scale Medicaid
AI Anon/Alateen 1-888-425-2666	Support group Alcoholism-friends/relatives and teens.	No fees
AA Hotline 595-1212	12 Step Program	No fees
Peninsula Area Help Line 875-9314	Narcotics Anonymous	No fees
Advanced Recovery Systems	Alcohol, Eating Disorders and Substance Abuse	Private Insurance

FILING A COMPLAINT...

Here is the Customer Service Hotline Number:

757-928-6063 or 757-928-3680

A TENANT HOTLINE IS A FREE SERVICE FOR TENANTS LIVING IN PROPERTIES OWNED AND MANAGED BY THE NEWPORT NEWS REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY. WHEN FILING A COMPLAINT, YOU MUST STATE YOUR FULL NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AND SPEAK AS SLOWLY AND CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE.

WE WILL CALL YOU BACK WITHIN 48 HOURS REGARDING YOUR CONCERNS.

THANK YOU



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