



State of California

BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY

Gavin Newsom, Governor
Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2021

Contact: Russ Heimerich

916-651-1385

California COVID-19 Rent Relief Tops \$241 Million in Rental and Utility Assistance Paid

Tenants and landlords continue to apply at a greater rate following AB 832's 100 percent reimbursement and extended eviction protections

Public dashboard is now interactive, showing demographics and amounts paid and households served in specific cities and counties

SACRAMENTO – California's COVID-19 Rent Relief program has seen significant increases in almost all areas over the past month, with nearly 133,000 active applications, almost 21,000 households provided with help paying their rent and utilities, and a huge increase in the amount of rent and utility assistance paid – all of which and more can now be seen on a new [interactive public dashboard](#).

Since Governor Gavin Newsom [signed AB 832](#) on June 28, raising the reimbursement for rent to 100 percent, the amount of rental assistance paid has risen from approximately \$73.1 million as of June 28 to \$241.7 million this week, an increase of 232-percent and nearly one-fourth of the total rent requested. The number of applications received each week has increased by more than 57 percent, from 4,659 on June 28 to 7,319 on August 2, and the number of case managers processing applications has more than doubled.

“With robust eviction protections in place, we have been moving in earnest to ensure that renters and landlords who need assistance can get it as quickly as possible,” said Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH) Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramírez.

“Keeping families stably housed is even more critical given the surge in COVID-19 cases due to the Delta variant – the pandemic is by no means over.”

915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350A, Sacramento, California 95814 (916) 653-4090 www.bcsch.ca.gov

California COVID-19 Rent Relief Tops \$241 Million in Rental Assistance Paid

Page 2

AB 832 also gave California the strongest eviction protections in the nation. California was one of only a handful of states that had eviction protections in place past the July 31 federal eviction moratorium's expiration. California's eviction protections are in place through September 30, with additional protections through March 2022. AB 832 also increased reimbursement for rent to 100 percent.

"By extending eviction protections and increasing rental assistance to 100 percent, AB 832 has helped create significant additional interest among renters and landlords in the California COVID-19 Rent Relief program," said Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Director Gustavo Velasquez. "The tenants we are reaching are the ones most in need, with more than 84 percent of them at or below 50 percent of their Area Median Income (AMI)."

"We know that this health and economic crisis is particularly stressful on our lowest income households, with many unable to pay rent now and in the coming months. The California COVID-19 Rent Relief program has been a lifeline for renters and their families struggling to make ends meet and stay housed," said Tunua Thrash-Ntuk, Executive Director of LISC LA, and the State's Local Partner Network (LPN) Coordinator.

"During this unprecedented time, too many people are struggling financially and facing housing instability. Tenants and landlords appreciate the fact that we come directly to their communities, to provide a much-needed service," said Fair Housing Foundation (FHF) Executive Director Stella Verdeja. "Some of our tenants have told us that we have saved them from living on the street." FHF has a deep commitment to providing support and serve as a vital role in helping renters and homeowners facing financial difficulties.

A breakdown of demographic information about tenants who have applied for California COVID-19 Rent Relief can be found on an [interactive dashboard](#) on the [Housing Is Key website](#). The dashboard allows people to see the state's overall rent relief numbers, drill down to see numbers for individual jurisdictions participating in the state program, and the income, ethnicity, age, race and other demographic characteristics of tenants who have applied. The dashboard will be updated weekly as new payments are made to assist households.

###