Good Afternoon,

On July 7, 2021 Governor Evers announced that the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance Program (WERA) will begin to include coverage of internet costs for qualifying households. This program, which provides rental and utility assistance to households, has distributed more than $38 million to nearly 11,000 households statewide.

Eligible applicants include Wisconsin residents who meet the following criteria:

- One or more individuals within the household:
  - has qualified for unemployment benefits; or
  - experienced a reduction in household income; or
  - incurred significant costs, or experienced other financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- One or more individuals within the household can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- A household income at or below 80 percent of county median income.

A reminder that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Eviction Moratorium will expire July 31. Please review these housing resources:

**Statewide Programs**

Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) is accepting applications to provide up to 12 months assistance for current and/or overdue rent and utility payments to people who experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see WERA frequently asked questions for more information.

Emergency Assistance is available to low-income caretaker relatives of dependent children experiencing a housing emergency. The Emergency Assistance program provides a one-time payment to qualified families.

**Milwaukee-Area Program**

Milwaukee Emergency Rental Assistance (MERA) offered through the Social Development Commission (SDC), provides rent assistance to those experiencing
financial hardship due to COVID-19 in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

**Tribal Community Members**
- Ho-Chunk Nation Emergency Rental Assistance
- Menominee Indian Tribe COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance
- Oneida Emergency Rental/Utility Assistance Program
- Red Cliff Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- Bad River Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Additionally, calling 2-1-1 will connect people in need to a 24/7 service line where the individual’s needs can be matched to available non-profit and government resources in their community from housing support to food and healthcare assistance.

**Action Steps for Renters Facing Eviction:**
1. After the moratorium expires, households facing eviction should be encouraged to attend the initial hearing to get a court date established.
2. Not attending the hearing will result in a default judgement in favor of the landlord and tenant removal will occur much sooner than if the tenant attends the hearing.
3. If a household is facing an eviction or has questions about their legal options and rights as a renter, the following are free legal resources for low-income Wisconsinites:
   - **Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.**
     - For civil legal services, call (855) 947-2529.
   - **Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.**
     - For legal help, call (715) 842-1681.
     - Civil legal service provider for Wisconsin's northern 33 counties and 11 federally recognized Indian tribes.
   - The American Bar Association also maintains a directory of organizations that can connect individuals with free legal services.

This email will be posted to the [BWF Work Programs Help Desk Home Page](#).