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Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:13 PM
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Subject: WERA Internet Expansion

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.

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