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## SC Housing, partners offer 30+ centers to help families find rental, utility assistance

COLUMBIA, S.C. (Oct. 18, 2021) – With more South Carolina families facing evictions and displacement in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision to end the federal eviction moratorium, SC Housing has partnered with community organizations to help families find rental and utility assistance.

Launched in May, [SC Stay Plus](#) is a rent and utility assistance program for renters financially impacted by COVID-19. Eligible applicants may receive up to 12 months of financial support for back rent and/or financial help with past-due utilities. The program has already assisted more than 6,400 families with nearly \$30 million in rent and utility payments. We continue to encourage the public to submit their application at <http://www.schousing.com>.

To help families who may be facing eviction or housing insecurity find rental and utility assistance, the SC Stay Plus program recently partnered with the S.C. Association of Community Action Partnerships, the S.C. State Conference of the NAACP and several county library systems to offer more than 30 in-person opportunities in October. Residents in the 39 counties covered by the SC Stay Plus program can apply for rental or utility assistance in at any of these local sites. To find a full list of in-person support centers near you, click the link on the [SC Stay Plus website](#).

“While thousands of our state’s residents have successfully applied for assistance through the web or our call center, we want to ensure that every South Carolinian who needs help has the opportunity to apply,” said Bonita Shropshire, executive director of SC Housing. “By partnering with these established community organizations, we have the ability to meet our state’s residents where they are and provide additional support and assistance to help them stay safely in their homes.”

In addition to past-due rent or utility bills, the program also provides up to three months of prospective rent to eligible applicants facing housing insecurity, and it may cover other housing costs brought about by the pandemic. South Carolina renters who have been evicted or are facing displacement should apply as soon as possible for support with the following housing related expenses and costs:

- **Fees:** late fees, court fees, any other legal costs related to eviction
- **Moving costs:** supplies to move (e.g., moving truck or boxes), storage unit fees, mover fees (reimbursed to the applicant with supporting documentation including paid receipts)
- **Hotel or motel expenses:** if a temporary stay was required between permanent homes (reimbursed to the applicant with supporting documentation including folios and proof of payment)

- **Move-in costs:** security deposits, first month's rent, last month's rent, application fees, or any other fees needed to move into a new apartment or home (reimbursed to the applicant with supporting documentation including paid receipts)

To access these funds, applicants must select "Other Housing Expenses" when prompted [in the application portal](#). Applicants who have an active, in-process application should contact the program call center at 803-336-3420 or via email at [scstayplus@schousing.com](mailto:scstayplus@schousing.com) and provide an update on their change of status. All payments for housing-related expenses must be supported by documentary evidence such as a bill, invoice and evidence of payment to the provider of the service.

Renters who live in the following seven counties – Anderson, Berkeley, Charleston, Greenville, Horry, Richland, and Spartanburg – have their own rental assistance programs to assist residents. Details about these programs can also be found at [SCHousing.com](http://SCHousing.com).

### **About SC Housing**

SC Housing is a self-sustaining housing finance agency committed to ensuring that South Carolinians have the opportunity to live in safe, decent and affordable housing. Agency operations are supported by a funding base that includes fees and other revenue earned through the administration of agency programs. For more information, visit [SCHousing.com](http://SCHousing.com).