

May 12, 2010

PLEASE NOTE: DCFPI does not provide Emergency Rental Assistance. For information about how to apply for ERAP, visit: <http://tenac.org/node/148>.

DC's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Trends and Demographics

The DC Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) helps low-income District residents facing housing emergencies. The program provides funding for overdue rent if a qualified household is facing eviction (including late costs and court fees). The program also supports security deposits and first month's rent for residents moving to new homes.

ERAP serves low-income DC households with children, elderly households (age 60 or older), and people with disabilities. The amount paid on behalf of eligible families depends on a household's income and available resources, and is subject to certain limitations. ERAP payments can only be used once per year for each eligible household.

The average ERAP payment per household for the 3,714 households that received help in 2008 was \$2,023, resulting in total assistance payments of \$7.5 million. The majority of ERAP payments — 78 percent — went to households with children, which included households that also had an elderly member or a member with a disability. Of ERAP payments in 2008, the vast majority (87 percent) went to pay rent in arrears.

There were 1,900 more applicants for ERAP assistance than in 2007 — 5,232 households vs. 4,043 households in 2007. The number of households actually receiving assistance in 2008 — 3,714 — was 25 percent higher than the 3,003 households served in 2007.

Characteristics of 2008 DC Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Participants

Eligibility Type	# of Payments	Average Payment	Total Amount of Payments	Percentage of Total
Total	3,714	\$2,023	\$7,513,557	100%
Children in household	2,464	\$1,942	\$4,783,886	63.7%
Sixty or older	113	\$2,002	\$226,254	3.0%
Disabled	662	\$2,023	\$1,339,065	17.8%
Children in household & sixty or older	16	\$1,971	\$31,530	0.4%
Sixty or older & disabled	53	\$2,243	\$118,895	1.6%
Children in household & disabled	392	\$2,490	\$975,958	13.0%
All three eligibility types	14	\$2,712	\$37,968	0.5%

Source: Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Administration (preliminary numbers)

How DC Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Funds Were Used in 2008			
Expense	# of ERAP Payments	Total Amount of Payments	Percentage of Total
Total, all expenses	3714	\$7,513,557	100%
Rent in Arrears	2837	\$6,539,912	87.0%
First Month Rent + Security Deposit	424	\$587,051	7.8%
Security Deposit	444	\$380,378	5.1%
First Month Rent	9	\$6,215	0.1%
Source: Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Administration (preliminary numbers)			

DC Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Trends				
Year	Total ERAP Applications Received	# of Households Denied	# of Households Approved	Total Payments
2007	4,043	665	3,003	\$5,988,451
2008*	5,232	1,120	3,714	\$7,513,557
Source: Department of Human Services Income Maintenance Administration				
* Preliminary numbers for 2008				