



Tenant Resources for Virginians

Revised June 30, 2022

The Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) closed to applications May 15, 2022. RRP was initiated to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. Since the program's inception, [more than \\$865 million has been distributed](#) to households in Virginia and [168,181 payments have been made](#) in rent relief assistance as of June 21, 2022.

[FAQs on RRP Portal Closure on May 15, 2022](#)



Chesterfield County and Fairfax County Residents

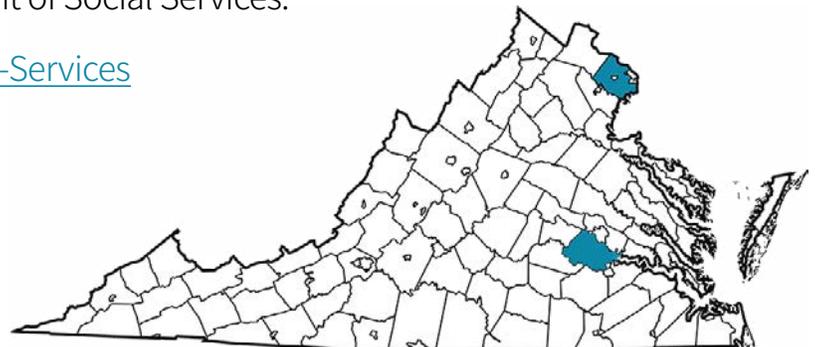
Chesterfield County and Fairfax County administered separate local rent relief programs. [Fairfax County](#) is still offering emergency rental and utility assistance.

Social services administers the [Housing Choice Voucher](#) Program for Chesterfield County and Colonial Heights. Other emergency financial assistance resources may be available through the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Department of Social Services:

<https://www.chesterfield.gov/569/Social-Services>

local041@chesterfield.gov

804-748-1100



Additional Rent Relief Resources

211 VIRGINIA: Virginia Department of Social Services Information and Referral Services features information on many community partners, community action agencies and nonprofit organizations across the commonwealth that help meet the financial needs of Virginians. Visit their website at 211virginia.org or by dialing 2-1-1; this is a free call. If you are calling from out of state or using a videophone or disposable cell phone, dial 1-800-230-6977.

Tenant Rights and Responsibilities:

- Late fees must be limited to 10% of the monthly rent amount or the amount of past due rent a tenant owes, whichever is less. This is state law and has no expiration date.
- The prohibition against negative action by a landlord who owns more than four rental units against an applicant for tenancy (based on non-payment of rent because of the pandemic) will remain in place for seven years after the state of emergency expired on June 30, 2021.
- Under the Virginia Fair Housing Law, it is an unlawful discriminatory housing practice to refuse to rent, refuse to negotiate for the rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny a dwelling to a person because of source of funds (defined to include any assistance, benefit, or subsidy program).

If You Cannot Pay Your Rent:

- If you are a Housing Choice Voucher recipient, contact your voucher agency as soon as possible so they can work with you toward a solution.
- Even though certain protections have been in place and even if your landlord allows you to skip one or more payments, the rent will need to be repaid eventually.

If you are a Virginian facing a potential eviction, call **1-833-NOEvict (1-833-663-8428)** or visit evictionhelpline.org.



Helpful Links:

[2-1-1 Virginia](#)

[DHCD Statement of Tenant's Rights and Responsibilities](#)

[Tenant and Landlord Resources](#)

[Eviction Hotline](#)

[HUD-Certified Housing Counselors](#)

[National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

[Virginia Housing Search](#)

[Renter Education eBook \(from Virginia Housing\)](#)

[Virginia Legal Aid](#)

[Virginia Poverty Law Center](#)

[Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Handbook](#)

[Virginia Mortgage Relief](#)

[Virginia Fair Housing Office](#)

Tenants may fall under various state and federal protections, but some property owners may be able to collect full payment or raise your rent to recover missed payments.

- Be sure to discuss this with your landlord and double-check that advice with a housing counselor ([HUD-Certified Housing Counselors](#)) or legal representation so you understand any potential future consequences of skipping rental payments now, and the specifics of what protections are available to you.
- To avoid having to pay a lump sum payment of your past-due rent, request a payment plan from your landlord and have it spread over a longer period of time. Once you agree on a payment plan, ask for the plan in writing. Landlords are required to offer a payment plan if they own five or more units per the Code of Virginia on a pay or quit notice.
- If you are experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing your housing: [Contact your local homeless crisis response system](#).
- The [Virginia Residential Landlord-Tenant Handbook](#) provides guidelines for tenant and landlord rights. For tenants in hotels or motels, if the room or suite has been the tenant's primary residence for more than 90 days or there is a written lease for at least 90 days, it is illegal for a landlord to evict the tenant without getting a court order and involving the sheriff's office.
- If you are facing an eviction, or if you have questions about your rights, contact Virginia Legal Aid by calling [1-866-LEGL-AID](#) or get legal advice from the Eviction Legal Helpline by calling [1-833-NoEvict](#).
- Pay your rent if you are able, as these costs will continue to accumulate.