



Mid-Columbia Community Action Council
Serving Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More COVID-19 Rent Relief Is On The Way

THE DALLES, OREGON – The Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) and Mid-Columbia Housing Authority (MCHA) are pleased to announce over \$500,000 in additional rental assistance is now available to households who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to funding made available through House Bill 4401, passed during the third special session of the Oregon State Legislature in 2020; the Supporting Tenants Accessing Rental Relief (STARR) Program can assist residents of Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties who are struggling to keep up on their rent payments. Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, MCCAC and MCHA have collaborated to invest nearly \$1,500,000 in rental assistance in our region’s rental market on behalf of households directly impacted by the pandemic.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating financial impacts on so many, it is critical that we to continue to support our community members in maintaining safe and stable housing,” MCCAC Executive Director, Kenny LaPoint said. “This resource will go a long way in preventing a loss of housing or homelessness for those who have been impacted by COVID-19.”

The STARR program provides rental assistance to households who are at or below 80% of the Area Median Income and have experienced a loss of income, compromised health conditions, are at risk of losing their housing, or have been diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19, and/or displaced or unstably housed as the result of public health measures taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Funds are available through June 30, 2021 and are available on a first come, first serve basis.

“Our commitment is to ensuring that no one in our community unnecessarily loses their housing due to the ramifications of the pandemic,” said Joel Madsen, Executive Director of the Mid-Columbia Housing Authority. “Thanks to the support from the Oregon Legislature and Oregon Housing and Community Services, we can again offer resources to help stave off evictions and keep families housed.”

For more information or to apply for the COVID Rent Relief Program, contact Mid-Columbia Housing Authority at 541-296-5462 or send an email to info@mid-columbiahousingauthority.org.

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