

# United Lift Rental Assistance Fund

## Application Process

### 1. COMPLETE SCREENING & APPLICATION:

Visit [www.UnitedLift.org](http://www.UnitedLift.org) to complete an application or dial 2-1-1 if you require assistance over the phone.

If you dial 2-1-1: A 2-1-1 specialist will conduct a preliminary screening to determine eligibility. If applicant meets eligibility, the 2-1-1 specialist will connect the applicant to a United Way team member who will be available to assist the applicant through completing the application.

The application is available in English and Spanish.

### 2. APPLICATION SUBMITTED:

- a. If you do not meet the eligibility requirements you will be notified within 3 days of the application period's closing date.
- b. If you meet the eligibility requirements your application will be accepted into the rental assistance lottery. Only the applications who meet all the eligibility requirements will be considered for the lottery.

### 3. RENTAL ASSISTANCE LOTTERY:

Once the application period closes, qualifying applicants will be selected through a lottery system.

If your application is selected for rental assistance, you will be contacted by a team member to verify details of your application and obtain program eligibility documents. Your application details will also be verified with your landlord.

*If you are not selected in the first round of applications, but you meet the general eligibility requirements, your application will automatically roll into the next application period.*

### 4. SELECTED APPLICATIONS:

When your application is approved and verified, the payment will be made directly to your landlord. Both you and your landlord will receive a written confirmation of payment and terms.



United Way  
of the Inland Valleys

LIFT TO RISE



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the United Lift Rental Assistance Program?

The United Lift Rental Assistance Program is a coordinated effort between Riverside County, United Way of the Inland Valleys, and Lift To Rise to keep 10,000 Riverside County families and residents housed between the months of June and November by providing one-time support in direct rental assistance.

### How long will this program last?

The program will run between June 2020 and December 2020. Funds will be awarded between early July and early December.

### When will the application be available?

The application portal will be live and available in English and Spanish beginning June 15th. The application will be live for a period of 10 days and close on June 25th. Following the initial application period, the application will open every month for a period of 10 days.

### What is the schedule of application periods & payments?

June (Initial) Application Period	June 15th – June 25th
First round of payments processed	First two weeks of July
July Application Period	July 15th – July 25th
Second round of payments processed	First two weeks of August
August Application Period	August 15th – August 25th
Third round of payments processed	First two weeks of September
September Application Period	Sept 15th – Sept 25th
Fourth round of payments processed	First two weeks of October
October Application Period	October 15th – October 25th
Fifth round of payments processed	First two weeks of November
November (Final) Application Period	Nov 15th – Nov 25th
Final round of payments processed	First two weeks of December

### How do I receive rental assistance?

To be considered for rental assistance, you must fill out an application. Interested residents can visit [www.UnitedLift.org](http://www.UnitedLift.org) to apply or dial 2-1-1 to seek additional assistance over the phone. Once connected, the 2-1-1 specialist will be able to conduct a preliminary screening to determine eligibility and refer you to a team of staff that is available to help you complete the remaining application over the phone. If you require assistance completing the application, please dial 2-1-1.

# United Lift Rental Assistance Fund

## Who is eligible to receive rental assistance?

Please note that for the first two periods of applications, priority will be given to those who are not currently receiving Unemployment Insurance benefit payments.

Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements.

- Renters in the **County of Riverside** with a lease agreement.
- Low-income to extremely low-income renters defined as individuals or families who earn 80% or below of the County area's median income.<sup>1</sup> For example, this means that for a family of 4, their annual income must not exceed \$60,250 or 80% AMI.
- Renters that can document a loss of income and are unable to make their rent payments due to COVID-19 related financial impacts.

## If I meet all the general eligibility requirements does this guarantee that I will receive rental assistance?

No. If you meet all the general eligibility requirements, this guarantees that your application will be accepted into the rental assistance lottery. Due to limited funding and high demand for assistance, a lottery process will determine which applicants will end up on the selected list. Only applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will be entered into the lottery.

## How does the lottery process work?

The United Lift Rental Assistance Fund will deploy funds via a lottery system (instead of a first-come, first-serve system) in order to not disadvantage applicants who may need time to locate and submit an application. Qualified applicants are randomly selected using a random mechanism i.e. a lottery process. The element of randomization allows for a higher degree of fairness.

## How much am I eligible to receive?

This program provides one-time support in rental assistance. Rental assistance is intended to cover 100% of the total passed due rent, **up to \$3,500 per household**. This amount is intended to cover two (2) to three (3) months of rent.

## If I meet the general eligibility and my application is selected, what information or documentation do I need to verify my application?

- A completed application
- A form of identification
- A lease agreement
- A documented loss of income
- Inability to pay rent due to COVID-19 related financial impacts

## What is a lease agreement?

A formal written agreement between a landlord and tenant.

## What form of identification is acceptable?

Any government issued identification, including a driver's license, passport, permanent resident card, etc.

## How do I document a loss of income due to COVID?

Documentation can include:

1. A letter from an employer or other source of income citing COVID-19 as a reason for reduced work hours, termination, or other substantial reduction in pay.
2. Employer payroll checks or payroll stubs showing a reduction in pay following the COVID-19 outbreak.
3. Bank statements showing a reduction of income following the COVID-19 outbreak.
4. Documentation showing payment of substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses caused by COVID-19.
5. Documentation showing the closure of a school or childcare facility where a child in the tenant's care would otherwise be present during the tenant's normally working hours which, as a result, has caused the tenant to work reduced hours.
6. Any other objectively verifiable documentation to demonstrate a substantial hardship or inability to make timely rent payments caused by COVID-19.

## What if I am currently behind on rent and I am also unable to pay next month's rent? Will this program be able to cover future rent?

No. Funding for this program is limited to only cover past due rent i.e. unpaid balance.

## Can I apply more than once?

- If you apply and are selected (by the lottery system) to receive rental assistance, you cannot reapply for assistance. This is a one-time support program.
- If you apply and are denied due to not meeting eligibility requirements at the point of submitting your application, but your circumstances change at a later point, you can reapply.
- If you apply, meet eligibility requirements, but are not selected to receive rental assistance, your application will roll over into the next period. Please note that if you are selected during the subsequent application period, your information will have to be verified to ensure that you still qualify.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il2020/2020summary.odn>

# United Lift Rental Assistance Fund

## Will this program cover my rent from before April 2020?

No. Funding for this program is limited to cover past due rent from April 2020 to November 2020.

## Does the landlord receive one payment or monthly payments?

The Landlord will receive one payment, equaling the total cost of your unpaid balance (up to \$3,500).

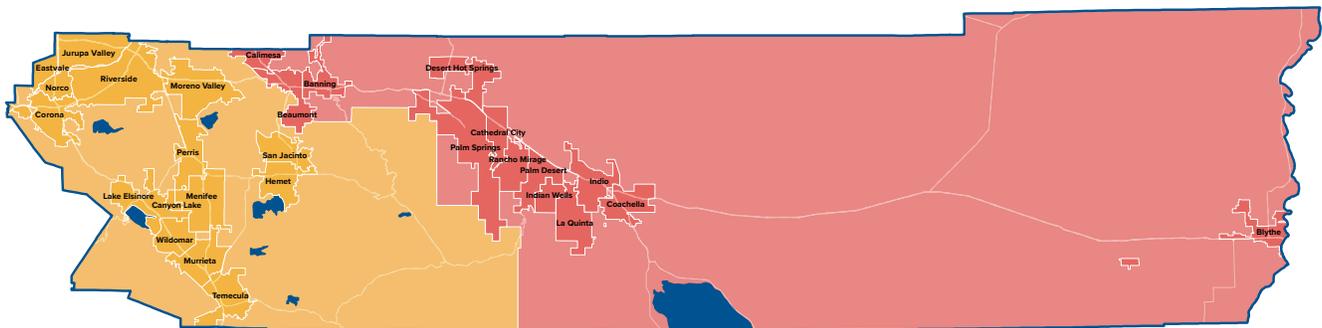
## How long does this process take after submitting my application?

If you meet the general eligibility and your application is selected, it should take no more than 20 days to: review your application, verify application details, obtain program eligibility documents, and initiate payment to landlord.

## If I have questions about my application status, who can I contact?

[Lift To Rise](#) will be covering the east end of Riverside County including all Coachella Valley cities and unincorporated communities, Calimesa Blythe, Banning, and Beaumont. [United Way of the Inland Valleys](#) will cover the west and southwestern portion of the county.

## County of Riverside Map



- Areas Covered by Lift to Rise
- Areas Covered by United Way of the Inland Valleys