

HELP MINISTRIES
RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RAP) QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify for RAP you must:

- Be a resident of Dauphin County
- Be homeless (**see definition of homelessness in the eligibility section**) or have a **court-ordered Order of Possession from the District Court.**
- Have a written agreement with the landlord to rent to you (move-in assistance)
- Provide proof of sufficient income to cover rent and other basic living expenses
- Have verification of all household income for the past 30 – 90 days.
- Have received all the Emergency Shelter Allowance (ESA) funds from the County Assistance Office which you are entitled to receive

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR BACK RENT, you must:

- Not be living in a subsidized housing unit
- Have a court-ordered Order of Possession from the District Court

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR MOVE-IN ASSISTANCE, you must be able to provide documentation that you are currently homeless or there is a legal reason you need to leave your housing imminently.

Examples of documentation include:

- Documentation that you are currently in an emergency shelter
- Receipt from current self-paid hotel stay.
- Discharge letter from a program you are currently in
- Non-renewal of lease (**only if you have not been identified as an undesirable tenant**), property being sold, or property condemnation

RAP FUNDS CAN BE USED FOR:

- Move-in assistance – security deposit and/or a first month rent for those who are homeless
- Back rent to stop eviction – payment is approved only when there is a signed agreement which brings the total amount owed to zero **and** there is a signed agreement from the landlord to stop the eviction procedure
- Court costs accrued as part of the eviction process

RAP FUNDS CAN NOT BE USED FOR:

- Back rent for Section 8 or subsidized housing
- Mortgage, lease to purchase or escrow payments, damage or maintenance fees
- Current month rent or future rent
- Utility payments such as water, sewer, trash, oil, gas, electricity, etc.
- Back rent for a residence where the client does not currently live
- Security deposit and/or first month rent assistance after the client has already moved into the residence
- Situations that cannot be verified through third-party documentation

RAP is not an entitlement program. All payments are subject to the availability of funds. Funds are not reserved while you are gathering information or trying to satisfy the conditions of this program. Your landlord must agree to cooperate with RAP.