Protections for Renters during COVID-19

In this guide:

- Information about the City's rent eviction moratorium
- Opportunities for rental assistance
- Legal aid for renters
Protections for Residential and Commercial Tenants

On March 24, 2020, the City Council of Union City voted to temporarily suspend evictions for qualifying residential and commercial tenants in Union City. This moratorium on eviction for a tenant that meets the requirements of the ordinance is in effect until the expiration of the local emergency or the Governor’s proclamation of a state of emergency, whichever occurs last.

The Ordinance prohibits evictions for residential and commercial tenants that can show:

1. Inability to pay rent due to, or arising out of a substantial decrease in household or business income or substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses; and
2. The decrease in income, or out-of-pocket medical expenses, was caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, or by any local, state, or federal government response to COVID-19, and is documented in writing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualifying impacts on residential tenants related to COVID-19 include:</th>
<th>Qualifying impacts on commercial tenants related to COVID-19 include:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• COVID-19 illness or caring for a household or family member with COVID-19 illness</td>
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<td>• Work closures, layoffs, job loss, a reduction in the number of compensable hours or other economic or employer impacts</td>
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<td>• Missing work due to a minor child’s school closure, compliance with government health authority orders, or other similarly-caused reasons.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Work closures</td>
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<td>• Reduction in staff reporting to work</td>
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<td>• Reduction in opening hours</td>
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<td>• Reduction in consumer demand</td>
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<td>• Compliance with government health authority orders</td>
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<td>• Other similarly-caused reason resulting in loss of business income</td>
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If you can't pay your rent because of COVID-19, don't forget to:

• Tell your landlord in writing as soon as possible.
• Keep copies of what you send and your landlord’s responses.
• Provide your landlord with documentation to support the impact from COVID-19, which could include work documents, notice of school or daycare closures, or any other similar documents.

The moratorium is not rent forgiveness. While the moratorium prevents a landlord from evicting you for failure to pay rent due to a qualifying COVID-19 related reason, you will still owe back rent to your landlord.
The City of Union City will be issuing a second round of Residential Rental Assistance program funding for Union City residents who have been struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have been unable to pay their rent. Funding for the program is provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) program.

The City’s program guidelines have been updated to cover three consecutive months of back rent, up to $5,000, for rental households earning 80 percent of median income ($94,000 for a family of three) who have been impacted by COVID-19. Funds will be paid directly to the landlord.

Financial Aid for Residential Renters

Residential Rental Assistance Program

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Application period  March 15, 2021 - March 29, 2021
Application website  unioncity.org/COVID19rentalassistance

For more resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit:

www.unioncity.org/coronavirus
www.unioncity.org/e-newsletter
www.facebook.com/CityOfUnionCity

Legal Aid for Tenants

Bay Area Legal Aid
Tenants Rights number
1(888)-382-3405
www.baylegal.org

Centro Legal de la Raza
www.centrolegal.org
(510)-437-1554

East Bay Community Law Center
www.ebclc.org
(510) 548-4040

ECHO Housing
www.echofairhousing.org
(510)-581-9380

Eviction Defense Center
evictiondefensecenteroakland.org
(510)-452-4541

Legal Aid for landlords/ property owners

Housing and Economic Rights Advocates (HERA)
www.heraca.org
(510)-271-8443

Non-Legal Tenant Support

Causa Justa - Just Cause
Tenant Hotline:
(510) 836-2687
(general advice in English and Spanish)
(510) 763-5877
(main number/tenant organizing)