



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HomeHelpMN expands eligibility with program changes**

*Assistance increased to up to \$50,000 per household; Older past-due bills allowed*

[SAINT PAUL, MN] – Changes to [HomeHelpMN](#), Minnesota’s homeownership assistance fund, will expand eligibility to more Minnesota homeowners.

Effective August 12, the maximum assistance amount increased to \$50,000, up from \$35,000. The program will also accept past-due expenses incurred before January 21, 2020, if the household experienced a pandemic-related financial hardship.

HomeHelpMN also announced on August 4 it was lifting its application deadline. The program will continue to accept requests for assistance as long as the program has funds available.

“We know that many Minnesotans have struggled with homeownership expenses because of the pandemic, and we have found that these changes will make HomeHelpMN assistance available to more homeowners,” said Minnesota Housing Commissioner Jennifer Ho. “Whether you have missed a few mortgage payments, have past-due lot rent, are overdue on property taxes, or some combination, HomeHelpMN is available for you, and the time to apply is now.”

Households who were previously denied but are still in need of assistance and meet the eligibility criteria may request their application be reopened by calling 800.388.3226. For applications being processed, the new criteria will be used and no additional action is needed.

Income eligibility remains the same and varies based on the county of residence. Interested homeowners are encouraged to check their [county’s income limits](#). For a household of four, the maximum eligible income ranges from \$90,000 to \$117,300.

Approximately 4,700 households have requested assistance, accounting for 62% of the available funds. Application statistics are included on the [program dashboard](#).

The application helps identify homeowners who are at imminent risk of foreclosure or eviction, and those applications are prioritized for processing. The team has assisted in postponing 28 lot rent evictions and 63 sheriff sale dates, allowing time for cases to be processed and third parties to receive payments.

“This program was designed to provide assistance to homeowners who are the most vulnerable and at risk of losing their home due to the effects of the pandemic,” said Ho. “We want homeowners who are struggling to know that HomeHelpMN is here for them and to get an application started today.”

### **About HomeHelpMN**

Minnesota homeowners who have experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have past-due housing expenses may be eligible for financial assistance to bring their payments current.

Applications for assistance can be submitted online at [HomeHelpMN.org](https://HomeHelpMN.org) or over the phone at 800.388.3226. The website and application are available in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong. The call center supports these languages and more. Call center hours are from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

The HomeHelpMN program dashboard is available on the [program website](#).

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