

# City of Los Banos

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COVID-19 RESIDENTIAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

October 14, 2020

## **BACKGROUND**

On March 17, 2020, the City of Los Banos proclaimed a local emergency due to the rising cases of COVID-19 throughout California, which was later ratified by the City Council on March 18, 2020. Since that time, the severity of the local emergency has increased daily, with additional reported cases of COVID-19 infections and related deaths in Merced County, all areas of California, the U.S., and throughout the world. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20, ordering all California residents to stay at home, except as needed to maintain the continuity of operations in infrastructure sectors critical to protect the health and well-being of all Californians.

With the COVID-19 emergency, many residents are experiencing an economic hardship as a direct result of the public health measure taken to minimize the public's exposure to the virus. These measures, some of which are government-mandated, are being implemented nationwide.

The CARES Act Residential Assistance Program was established as an emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide financial assistance on behalf of low to moderate income residents experiencing difficulty making rent, mortgage or utility payments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistance shall be made available in the form of a grant and funds will be paid directly to property owners, mortgage companies and/or utility companies (vendors).

## **GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

The following are the City of Los Banos COVID-19 Residential Assistance Program guidelines.

### **PURPOSE**

The intent of the City of Los Banos COVID-19 Residential Assistance Program is to provide financial assistance to City of Los Banos residents for one-time emergency rent, mortgage, and utility assistance for those significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **ELIGIBLE USES**

Funding may be used to cover the following eligible residential expenses incurred between March 19, 2020 and the date of application; payments will be made directly to vendors:

- Delinquent rent or mortgage costs on primary residence.
- Delinquent utility bills on primary residence.

### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Applicants must be a City of Los Banos resident since February 2020.
2. Applicants must be 18 years or older and documented tenant at current address.
3. Applicants must have a household income equal to or less than the 2020 Poverty Guidelines.
4. Applicants must prove economic hardship due to the COVID-19.
5. Applicants must be current on your rent/mortgage/utilities through February 29, 2020.

**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Completed Tenant Application
2. Current Photo ID
3. Utility bill in applicants name for residence
4. Proof of income/pay stubs/etc.
5. Proof of job loss/reduction (if applicable)
6. Proof of rent delinquency
7. Proof of delinquency utility account

**GRANT AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION**

1. The Residential Assistance Grant Program will be administered by the City of Los Banos, Finance Department.
2. Grants will be allocated in amounts up to \$1,200 for rent/mortgage assistance and \$400 for utilities.
3. Grants will be limited to one (1) per household.
4. **Applications will be accepted no later than October 30, 2020.**
5. Eligible grant recipients will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Submission of an incomplete or inaccurate application may result in ineligibility for program funding.
6. Funding will be paid directly to vendor, funding will not be made to applicant.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

1. All eligible expenses and receipt of payment must be reported to the City by October 30, 2020.

**2020 HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS**

Based upon the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Poverty Guidelines Federal Register

PERSONS IN HOUSEHOLD	POVERTY GUIDELINE
1	\$12,760
2	\$17,240
3	\$21,720
4	\$26,200
5	\$30,680
6	\$35,160
7	\$39,640
8	\$44,120
For households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,480 for each additional person.	