



HOUSING RIGHTS CENTER

WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY IN HOUSING

Summer 2021

FY 20-21, Issue 4

Housing Rights **NEWS**



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HOUSING RIGHTS HOTLINE: 1-800-477-5977

TTY: 1-213-201-0867

www.housingrightscenter.org



HOUSING RIGHTS NEWS

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ICYMI: WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 RENT RELIEF

DISABILITY RIGHTS

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-  @hrc_la
-  @HousingRightsCenter
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 **CA COVID-19
RENT RELIEF**

Behind on rent or utilities?

Get the help you need now.

HousingKey.com
833-430-2122

**FAIR HOUSING
CERTIFICATION
TRAINING**

FOR HOUSING PROVIDERS

**UPCOMING
2021 DATES:**

**JUNE 25, 2021
JULY 30, 2021
AUGUST 27, 2021**

COVID-19 TENANT PROTECTIONS: WHAT'S NEXT

Susan Lin, Senior Outreach Coordinator

Protections end September 30, 2021 for California tenants who are behind on rent because of the pandemic. Here are the actions California tenants can take now to protect themselves from eviction in the

ANYWHERE IN CALIFORNIA

September 30, 2021:

In order to gain eviction protections, California tenants must pay **25% of any rent debt** that came due between **September 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021** (except tenants in the city of Los Angeles). Tenants should also give their landlords a Declaration of COVID-19 Related Financial Distress for every month they missed rent. California tenants who take these two steps cannot be evicted for their past due rent. If they do not repay it, they can be sued in small claims court.

October 1, 2021:

California tenants must **pay their rent in full** going forward, and can be evicted if they do not.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

August 1, 2022 or 12 months after local emergency is lifted (whichever is first):

Los Angeles tenants must finish paying back their rental debt in full.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

September 30, 2021:

Tenants must finish paying back their rental debt that was due between **March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020**.

Other protections for Los Angeles County tenants also end on September 30, 2021. Until then, tenants have a defense in court if they receive an eviction notice for: **no-fault evictions** (including most owner move-in); **unauthorized occupants and pets**; **nuisance** (such as noise); and **denying entry** to the landlord.

September 30, 2022:

Tenants must finish paying back their rental debt that was due between **July 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021**.

RENT RELIEF

California's COVID-19 Rent Relief Program can assist with up to 100% of rental debt from March 2020 – April 2021. The program is open to households earning less than 80% of their county's Area Median Income (AMI). Citizenship is not required. Tenants and landlords can learn more about the state rental assistance program at **www.housingiskey.com** or call **833-430-2122**. ◀

SUMMER 2021 UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

SECTION 8 HOUSING RIGHTS FAQ WITH THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

June 30, 2021 - Zoom

Join HACLA and HRC for the Spanish session of our two-part webinar about the most commonly asked questions by Section 8 tenants.

LOCAL HOUSING RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

Your City

Need information on housing issues for yourself or your community? Contact HRC at outreach@housingrightscenter.org to schedule a Housing Rights Workshop for your organization.

WALK-IN CLINIC

*Fridays, 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Alhambra Civic Center Library*

Speak to a housing counselor every Friday (except the fifth Friday of the month) at the Alhambra Civic Center Library.

Can I be denied housing because I am trans?



No, your landlord cannot deny you housing on the basis of your gender identity and/or expression. You are protected by both federal and California law.

Call the Housing Rights Center: 1800-477-5977 →

SPRING 2021 IN REVIEW

Crystal Letona, EOI Outreach Coordinator

APRIL: NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

National Fair Housing Month commemorates the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968—the historic civil rights law banning racial, national, and religious discrimination in housing. The Act was enacted in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. just days after his assassination, and the Housing Rights Center was founded shortly afterward to protect and promote equal access to housing for all. Today, the Fair Housing Act includes protections against discrimination based on sex, disability, familial status, and sexual orientation and gender identity, and HRC fights for the rights of all communities. Read more page 3.

APRIL: SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & AWARENESS MONTH

The Housing Rights Center (HRC) recognizes this past **National Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Month**. It's been over a year since the pandemic, and we are more aware than ever of the complex housing needs of survivors and victims of sexual assault, abuse, and harassment. For example, the National Fair Housing Alliance's members reported a 13 percent increase in sexual harassment complaints during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue outreach and education on sexual harassment and assault in housing, HRC is dedicated to addressing the needs of underserved and marginalized survivors.

MAY: AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

Every year, **Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month** is an opportunity to listen and learn about the diversity within AAPI communities. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, more than 3,000 hate crimes have been reported against Asian Americans, and many more are feared to have been unreported. The legacy of historic policies that displaced, excluded, and endangered Asian communities in the United States continues to shape our society. We were pleased this month to join Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles in providing education and legal assistance in Korean, and encourage the public to report discrimination whenever possible.

JUNE: PRIDE MONTH

Pride Month celebrates the resilience, diversity, and strength of LGBTQ+ communities. This year, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development took the historic step of expanding fair housing rights for LGBTQ+ individuals across the nation—even in states that don't otherwise provide protections based on sexual orientation. But, with LGBTQ+ youth and adults both still disproportionately impacted by loss of housing, housing instability, and high housing costs, there is still much work to do. By understanding the unique housing issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community, we can create a more equal and just society. ◀

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HIGHLIGHTS: DEFENDING SURVIVORS, FAMILIES, AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

HRC works to inform our communities about the fair housing laws that protect all of us. Want to schedule a workshop? Send an email to our team at outreach@housingrightscenter.org.



2021 HOUSING RIGHTS SUMMIT

HRC was proud to host U.S. Rep. Judy Chu, Los Angeles County Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Holly J. Mitchell, and many more amazing advocates and community members at our 22nd annual Housing Rights Summit, titled *“COVID-19 and the Legacy of Housing Discrimination: The Path Forward.”* Together, we strategized continued action against discrimination, hate violence, and systemic inequality in the United States, and recognized the courageous work of grassroots groups like the Coalition for an Anti-Racist Glendale in redressing the history of racial exclusion in our communities. If you missed it, visit www.housingrightscenter.org/summit for the highlights and online resource gallery.



FAIRNESS FOR FAMILIES

One of the top discrimination complaints HRC receives is about family status. But households with children are entitled to equal and fair treatment under the law. HRC reached out to Penny Lane Centers, which provides services for youth and families throughout Los Angeles County, for this very reason. Our trainings for community-based organizations are designed to equip staff to better assist parents, families, and other clients in navigating their housing situations.



FOR THE HOOD, BY THE HOOD

“For the hood by the hood” is Hood Liberation’s rallying cry. This group of community organizers in Altadena came together during the 2020 Black Lives Matter uprisings to support their community. HRC went live on Instagram to talk with Hood Liberation’s followers about sexual harassment and assault in housing and current COVID-19 tenant protections in a two-part series. We also joined the very first Dena Day community market and resource fair promoting Black and brown businesses in the San Gabriel Valley.

Looking for affordable housing?

PROJECT PLACE

RENTAL LISTINGS - JUNE 2021

www.housingrightscenter.org/rental-listing

Do you need help with rent or utilities?

You may be eligible for the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program.

Financial assistance is available from the State of California for income eligible renters and their landlords who have been impacted by COVID-19 and have past due rent or utilities, or who need help with upcoming rent or utilities.

Both renters and landlords are encouraged to apply.

Assistance is available for unpaid rent dating back to April 1, 2020, as well as for future rent.

Assistance is also available for unpaid utility payments dating back to April 1, 2020, or for future utility payments, which will both be compensated at 100% of cost, limited to a total of 12 months, and paid directly to the utility provider.

Assistance from the CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program does not count as earned income and will not affect eligibility for any other state benefit assistance programs.

All applicant information is kept private and will not be shared.

Income eligible applicants may qualify regardless of immigration status and will not be required to show proof of citizenship.



How do I apply?

To check eligibility and apply, visit HousingIsKey.com or call **833-430-2122**.

For in-language assistance, to get help with eligibility requirements or filling out an application, schedule an appointment with a local organization near you by calling **833-687-0967**.

The CA COVID-19 Rent Relief program is an official State of California sponsored program.

Disability accommodations IN HOUSING

People with disabilities are entitled to request certain accommodations or modifications in their rental homes.

HRC can help make requests on your behalf.

Parking
space

Service/
support
animal

Wheelchair
ramp

Grab
bars

POLICY Accommodations

Live-in
caregiver

Change
rent
due date

Remove
carpet

STRUCTURAL Modifications

*In some cases, tenants may be responsible for the cost of modifications. Contact us to learn more.

Switch
units

Lower
countertops

Repair
elevator

* Tenants who are vulnerable to COVID-19 can request to delay maintenance, inspections, and other non-urgent home entry.

Contact the Housing Rights Center for help making reasonable accommodation or modification requests.



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