

**For Release Thursday, 4/1/2021**

**County of Berks – Press Release**

*Application portal for Berks County Emergency Rental Assistance Program temporarily closed*

**Reading, PA— 4/1/2021** — The Berks County Redevelopment Authority and the Berks Coalition to End Homelessness have decided to temporarily close the application portal for the Berks County Emergency Rental Assistance Program due to the high volume of applications. The portal will reopen on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 8 a.m.

Officials want to make it clear that this temporary closure is to allow staff to work through the large number of applications already received. Applications for the \$27 million assistance program will be accepted until August 30, 2021.

Tenants who have already submitted an application and have questions can contact their assigned reviewer for assistance. Applicants are also asked to remain patient and understand that they will not receive an immediate response to any emails or phone calls due to the high volume of applications and the limited capacity of the Coalition’s staff.

The Berks County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is designed to ensure housing stability by providing rental and utility payments to landlords and utility companies to keep residents in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more about the program, visit [www.doyourpartberks.com/rental-assistance](http://www.doyourpartberks.com/rental-assistance).

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