



# KENAI

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Paul Ostrander  
City Manager

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## **City of Kenai offers housing assistance CARES Act grants**

The City of Kenai is offering up to four months rental assistance or mortgage relief for qualifying households through the end of the year, allocating up to \$400,000 of CARES Act funding to assist residents who have lost income due to the public health emergency.

Eligible households may qualify to receive up to \$1,200 a month in housing assistance, September through December, depending on the cost of their rent or mortgage and the amount of their income loss due to work shutdowns or slowdowns from COVID-19.

The City has contracted with the Alaska Housing Finance Corp. (AHFC) to administer the program. The agency operated a one-month, statewide housing assistance program this summer, and now is working with several Alaska cities to continue the program using the municipalities' own share of federal CARES Act funding for local residents.

Almost 80 City of Kenai households received assistance from the state program this summer, among more than 8,000 Alaskans who applied. "It makes sense for the City of Kenai to start with that list, open the program to new applications, and use the state housing agency's experience to help Kenai households in need," said Kenai City Manager Paul Ostrander. "This is the fastest way to get help to our City residents struggling to pay their rent or mortgage due to losing their jobs or losing hours at work."

AHFC and its contractor will review applications from City of Kenai residents, verify their income, and issue payments directly to the landlord or mortgage servicer. Households that received assistance in the state's summer program do not need to reapply; AHFC's contractor will reach out to them to verify their current information. City of Kenai residents who did not participate this summer can apply online at [www.KenaiHousingRelief.org](http://www.KenaiHousingRelief.org).

The assistance program is open to City of Kenai households with an annualized income that does not exceed \$71,760, which is 80% of the median income for Kenai. The income calculation will be based on what the household members are earning after job losses, cutbacks in hours or reduced self-employment income due to COVID-19 impacts.

The application period will open at 10 a.m. Sept. 15 and will remain open into December. Questions about the application process? Call toll-free (833) 551-0501.

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*For news reporters: For more information, contact City of Kenai CARES Act Project Lead Larry Persily at 283-8226, [lpersily@kenai.city](mailto:lpersily@kenai.city).*