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Madison County Releases Landlord Survey Results for Rental Assistance

Wampsville, NY - Madison County received 55 responses to a recent survey sent out to County landlords to assess tenants' ability to pay rent during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the state and federal moratoriums on eviction.

Surveys submitted from zip codes representing Oneida, Canastota, Chittenango, Cazenovia, Hamilton and Morrisville among several other Madison County communities.

- A total of 46 of 55 surveyed landlords have 20 rental units or less.
- A total of 46 of 55 surveyed landlords have 5 rental buildings or less.
- A reported 175 rental units are one or more months behind in monthly rent, with a total amount owed of \$627,319 (ranging from \$0-\$95,000) with an average of \$11,406 owed to landlords.
- A reported 127 rental units are one or more months behind in monthly rent specifically due to COVID-19. The total amount owed is \$513,784 (ranging from \$0-\$44,134) with an average of \$9,342 owed to landlords.

Through this survey, Madison County was able to gain a better understanding of the financial assistance needed for landlords and tenants and provide information that rent relief is on its way!

"We have seen first-hand the financial hardship that COVID-19 placed on both Madison County residents and landlords, and we hope that with new available state funding, both will receive much-needed assistance to ease their financial burden," says Madison County Department of Social Services Deputy Commissioner for Financial Assistance, Tricia Platt.

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will enable tenants and landlords to apply for rental arrear payments. The ERAP makes available \$25 billion nationwide to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID pandemic.

While few larger counties, such as Onondaga County, are now beginning to administer ERAP services through their own county resources, most other counties are required to rely on New York State Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance (OTDA) to administer these funds on their behalf.

NYS OTDA will soon open an online application portal which will allow tenants and/or landlords to apply for rental arrear payment assistance. If eligible, OTDA will then process payment directly to landlords on behalf of the tenants (4-6-week time frame). Tenants and landlords can directly track the status of rental payment through the online portal. OTDA will also set up a Call Center for questions and assistance.

Madison County DSS and Community Action Partnership (CAP) will be on hand to assist with ERAP information, and outreach as soon as the NYS portal becomes available.

It is important to note that the federal government has extended the eviction moratorium until June 2021. For more information on ERAP please go to <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=284>.

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