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**Centre County Announces Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)
to Provide Financial Assistance and Housing Stability**

Bellefonte, PA - Centre County Government's Office of Adult Services will be launching a new Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), on Monday, March 8, to provide financial assistance and housing stability to residents of Centre County.

Individuals will be able to apply for the ERAP beginning on Monday, March 8 through COMPASS. This program is available to help renters with rent arrears, future rent (in 3-month increments), and utility assistance for up to 12-months. Assistance can be provided for rent and/or utility arrears as far back as March 2020. To be eligible, households must demonstrate that they were directly or indirectly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, are at risk of homelessness or housing instability, and have a total gross income that is at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Any tenant or landlord/property management firm (on behalf of the tenant) who is interested in this program can visit www.centrecountypa.gov/rentrelief to review program guidelines, eligibility criteria, and access the COMPASS application. Applications will be accepted through the program's expiration or until funding is exhausted.

On February 5, 2021, Governor Wolf signed S.B. 109 into law, which officially designated the Department of Human Services (DHS) as the agency overseeing administration of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Centre County has been approved for an allocation of up to \$10.6 million from the DHS for Centre County's ERAP.

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