

# Rental Assistance Program for Families

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## Description:

The Rental Assistance Program (RAP) for families is a state-funded program that helps very low-income families afford decent, safe and sanitary housing in the private market. Families can be of any size, including a single individual. Because the demand for housing assistance often exceeds the available resources, long wait periods for this program are common; waiting lists may even be closed if it is determined families on the list cannot receive assistance in the near future. The Department of Social Services works with its agent J. D'Amelia and Associates, certain public housing authorities and one community action agency to administer the program.

Selected Housing Authorities administer the RAP locally. They collect information from applicants on family composition, income and assets and verify the information to determine eligibility and the amount of housing assistance that is granted. Most families who are determined eligible are put on a wait list. When a family is chosen from the waiting list and deemed eligible, a RAP certificate is issued. The certificate holder is told the unit size for which his/her family is eligible certified.

Program participants are responsible for finding their own housing and are free to choose any private rental housing, including apartments, townhouses and single-family homes that meet the requirements of the program. Rental units must meet minimum standards of quality and safety defined by the State of Connecticut and unit owners must agree to rent as contracted under the program. Units may include families' current residences. J. D'Amelia and Associates pays the family's housing subsidy directly to the landlord. The family pays 40 percent (30 percent for older adults and persons with disabilities) of the actual rent charged by the landlord; the subsidy pays the remaining amount.

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## Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Family's income may not exceed 50 percent of the median income for the county or metropolitan area in which they choose to live. Refer to [Appendix I](#) for the HUD income guidelines.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen who has eligible immigration status.
- Family and landlord must enter into a lease agreement.
- Rental unit must meet minimum standards as determined by the State of Connecticut.

### Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:  
July 1 – June 30

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**Contact Information:**

Department of Social Services  
Housing Unit  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Telephone: 860-424-5878

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**Related Information:**

*N/A*