

CARES Housing Voucher Program Request for Increase in Rental Assistance

Beginning for August rent payments, all tenants in the CARES Housing Voucher Program may request an increase in their Rental Assistance on their rent payment. Currently, participants are required to contribute 30% of their household income toward their rent and the CARES Voucher contributes the remaining portion. **You are now able to have up to 100% of your rent covered through your CARES Housing Voucher.** (Please note that you will still be responsible for paying utilities and other costs.)

There are two choices for asking for a change:

- 1) If your income has decreased but your rental contribution has stayed the same, you are now paying more than 30% of your income towards your rent. You can submit new income information and ask to have your household contribution re-evaluated. You can ask to have your rental contribution re-evaluated at any time.
- 2) If you have experienced financial hardship or any added costs or expenses, you can ask to have your CARES Voucher contribution increased. You can ask to have the amount increased to cover up to 100% of your rent.

When your CARES Voucher support increases, it provides you a chance to save money to help you achieve your goals. We encourage you and all CARES tenants to take the “Sustaining the Rent” class from CVOEO, which can help you plan for next steps when your voucher expires. You can find more information about this at www.cvoeo.org/rentright or email classcoord@cvoeo.org or call 802-660-3455 ext 205. There are several other classes listed that may be interesting and/or helpful to you, such as:

- Tenant Skills
- Finding Housing and Getting Ready to Rent
- Financial Coaching

Check out these classes from [CVOEO’s Growing Money Program](#), as well:

- Spend Smart
- Keys to Credit

All classes are currently being held online via Zoom.

Talk with your CARES Housing Support Worker about which rental assistance change option might be best for you. For instance, if you will be transitioning to a permanent Housing Choice Voucher (previously known as Section 8) which requires you to contribute towards rent, you may or may not want to adjust your rent right now. Your CARES Housing Support Worker can help you plan for changes in your monthly budget.

If you want to adjust your household rent contribution, please complete and sign the form on the following page and contact your Housing Support Worker. An updated lease addendum will also be required, and you or your Housing Support Worker can find the form at

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/OEO/CARES/CARES-AppendixK.pdf>

Participant Name: _____

Participant Address: _____

Landlord Name: _____

CARES Housing Support Worker Name: _____

CHECK ONE:

I am requesting that my rental contribution be re-evaluated based on my current income.

[Attach income information](#)

OR

Attach self-declaration of income statement

I am requesting that my rental contribution be adjusted because I have experienced financial hardship or added expenses.

- My current rent is _____
- My current household contribution is _____
- My current CARES Voucher contribution is _____
- I would like my future household contribution to be _____

Please do NOT change how much rent you are paying your landlord until CVOEO has confirmed the changes with you, your CARES Housing Support Worker and your landlord.

Participant Signature: _____

Date: _____

CARES Housing Support Worker Signature: _____

Date: _____