

Pinellas CARES Financial Assistance Program

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Our Vision: To Be the Standard for Public Service in America.



Pinellas CARES Financial Assistance Program



In March 2020 the United States began to see an increase in the incidence of Coronavirus disease (COVID19). In response, a national state of emergency was declared, and Pinellas County followed with declaration of local state of emergency on March 13, 2020.

With the mounting economic impact resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic, Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

The County Commission requested a design for an expanded assistance program for individual and families that were directly impacted by loss of income due to the COVID 19 health emergency.



Pinellas CARES Financial Assistance Program



Pinellas County seeks to implement the *Pinellas CARES Financial Assistance* Program to help stabilize Low Income individuals and families impacted by loss of income due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The program leverages existing assistance infrastructure designed by Humans Services in partnership with 2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares to provide one-time CARES Act assistance for affected residents to help bridge financial gaps for overdue rent, mortgage payments, and utilities.



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Eligibility Criteria:

- **US Citizenship / Legal Permanent Resident**
- **Pinellas County Resident**
- **Income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level**
- **Liquid assets must be equal to or less than \$4000.00,**
 - ie; Cash, checking or savings accounts



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Verification:

- Applicants must demonstrate loss of income as a direct result of COVID-19
- Layoff or furlough notice
- Proof of reduction in hours



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Process:

Texting feature provides criteria information, quick triage, and corresponding step by step how to details for submitting required documents to a designated email address

OR

Call 2-1-1, staff gather eligibility information to assist with preliminary screening and help facilitate the documentation process

Case is approved or denied and the resident is contacted

Financial assistance is paid directly to the landlord, mortgage holder, and/or utilities company



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Pinellas CARES Financial Assistance funds will be coordinated as a separate assistance pool related to COVID-19 for tracking and reporting purposes

Human Services and Community Development staff have been trained to assist 2-1-1 with processing

Financial Assistance Program will commence upon direction by the County Commission and will continue through June 1, 2020

