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BOWLING GREEN HUMAN RIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2020 FAIR HOUSING NEWSLETTER

The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission is a nonprofit agency committed to serving the community through advocating for the rights of the protected classes which include: race, color, religion, national origin, age (over 40), disability, and familiar status (in housing). Our agency was created by the City of Bowling Green ordinance in 1966. The commission also investigates allegations of discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodation.

HOUSING EVICTIONS and ASSISTANCE

Governor Beshear signed an executive order on Monday August 3, 2020. The amount of \$15 million available for rental assistance as a part of a new executive order focused on evictions. He made the announcement during his briefing it is important to ensure that people don't lose their homes during the Coronavirus pandemic, that landlords don't suffer financially and that renter's don't incur insurmountable debt. We believe that it is framework that is going to be workable, "he said, "and is going to help a lot of Kentuckians." The executive order also requires landlords to give 30 days' notice before seeking and eviction for non-

Payment, Beshear said, and that landlords request a meeting with the tenant so they can try work out something. The 15 million will come from funding the state received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, commonly known as the CARES Act. Additionally, the state's Team Kentucky fund and funds from the state's Department of Local Government could potentially be used. The Kentucky Housing Corporation, which serves the state outside Jefferson and Fayette counties, will also use over half of the \$ 24.3 million it received from the federal government for assistance.

Governor Beshear said that the applications can be submitted for the funds administered by the state starting on September 08th. There's a 24/7 legal aid hotline been set up at 833-540-0342 along with a website, kycovidlegalhelp.org.



Gov. Beshear updated the state's executive order on evictions to reflect the Center for Disease Control's moratorium on residential evictions through December 31, 2020.

LOCAL NON-PROFITS RECEIVE FUNDING TO ASSIST WITH HOUSING, FOOD AND INSECURITY



Now that the eviction moratorium has been lifted, tenants now face possibility of getting evicted if they are unable to afford rent. Through a grant approved by the City, HOTEL, Inc., Salvation Army, BRASS, Hope House and Habitat for Humanity and Refugee BG have joined a collaborative partnership to provide assistance to individuals related to housing insecurity due to Covid-19. The funds will help with rent, mortgage, food, utilities, or language assistance. The grant and partnership also include funding for the Bowling Green Warren County Welfare Center which will receive \$ 60,000.00 and Barren River Area Safe Space will receive \$ 333,062.00 in funding.

What to do If You Can't Pay Your Rent?

If you're struggling to pay rent and other basic bills, there may be assistance options available such as listed above in this newsletter.

Know Your Rights

If you live in a city or state with an eviction moratorium in place, your landlord cannot take action to evict you or make you vacate your unit. Your landlord may, however, still be able to evict you for other issues unrelated to whether or not you've paid rent due to COVID-19.

Contact Your Landlord

If you can't pay your rent on time or in full, contact your landlord as soon as you expect to have difficulty paying. Provide as much information as you can about your financial situation and how long you think it may last. You may be able to work out a payment plan.

6 Rules for Complying with Fair Housing Law

Remember Fair Housing Requirements While Responding to Covid-19

Comply with laws banning discrimination and harassment against racial and ethnic minorities

Don't let fear or virus lead to disability discrimination claims

Carefully consider reasonable accommodation requests

Comply with laws banning discrimination, harassment based on sex

Treat applicants and residents consistently

We are all in this together and we will get through it together!!



Are Landlords eligible for CARES Act?

Landlords, for example, may be eligible for mortgage forbearance or small business loans and grants provided under different provisions of the CARES Act.

Does the CARES Act Protect renters?

Renter's are eligible for eviction protection through the CARES Act if they live in a rental home that is receiving federal subsidies or if they live at a property with a federal backed mortgage. Specifically, this includes rental housing supported by the following federal housing programs: Public Housing.

What is considered low income in Kentucky?

Families need an income of about twice the federal poverty threshold to meet their most basic needs.

Children living in families with incomes below this level \$ 48,678 for a family of four with Two children are referred as low income.

Nearly 40 percent of KY workers have filed for unemployment.

Many haven't been paid. Another 69,000 people filed for unemployment insurance last week in Kentucky, according to the new figures from the U.S.

Department of Labor, bringing the state's total nearly 743,000 since mid-March. The new figures push Kentucky's unemployment claims as a percentage of the labor force even higher, to more than 36 percent. As of last week, Kentucky had the highest unemployment rate in the country. Kentucky's workforce has been among the hardest hit in the country by several measures. According to the financial analysis group WalletHub, Kentucky has had the second biggest percentage increase in unemployment claims in the country since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in mid-March.



If you feel as if you have been discriminated against due to your membership in a protected class, please don't hesitate to contact the BG Human Rights Commission at (270) 782-7900 or via

bghumanrightscom@gmail.com.

Currently, due to COVID-19 recommendations the BGHRC is closed to the public for walk-in service. Discrimination complaints are being handled by appointments. A drop box has been installed on the entrance door for receiving complaints for the safety of those who wish to avoid social distancing

THE CDC GUIDELINES FOR COVID - 19

