



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 2, 2021

Contact: Dana R. Harris, Communications Manager
O: (716) 851-5581 C: (716) 481-6802
Email: drharris@city-buffalo.com

Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency launches campaign to make residents aware of funding for rental assistance

City of Buffalo recipient of Emergency Rental Assistance Funding from U.S Treasury

Buffalo, N.Y. – Mayor Byron W. Brown announced today the launch of a new campaign as part of the commencement of the New York State’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). The City of Buffalo has partnered with the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) to administer the statewide program. With over 23 billion dollars in funding provided through the America Rescue Plan, ERAP will provide up to 12 months of rental and utility assistance to residents at 80 percent of the median income for City residents.

As the community continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the public service announcement campaign will notify both landlords and their tenants of the opportunity to push the “reset” button in advance of the Eviction Moratorium expiration on August 31, 2021. The goal is for residents to develop a plan to keep them out of the eviction system by making past due rent payments in the circumstance that they have fallen behind due to financial hardship.

“The City of Buffalo has worked hard from the very beginning of the pandemic to keep our residents safely and stably housed through various programs funded through the CARES Act and other funding sources,” said Mayor Brown. “ERAP and the campaign highlight the urgency for residents to protect their families and future by ensuring landlord/tenant agreements are in place and applying for rental assistance as needed.”

The ERAP program is officially accepting applications at [Home Page - ERAP Portal \(ny.gov\)](#). Residents are also advised to call the NYS ERAP call center at 1-844-NY1-RENT for questions about documentation. For assistance in completing the application or some part of it, residents may also call 2-1-1 to connect with a service provider.

-Con’t-





While Buffalo residents will not receive assistance for arrears already paid by Live Well, FEMA, STAND UP Eviction Prevention or other programs, by applying to the ERAP program, landlords and tenants may receive payment for additional months for which rent is owed.

ERAP is funded by \$2.6 billion in federal resources and \$100 million of state funding. This is structured to help the state and the City of Buffalo collaborate and coordinate efforts as well as leverage resources. OTDA has organized an unprecedented effort to establish partnerships with the city and other local governments across the state to ensure that community-based organizations will provide outreach and direct application assistance in multiple languages to potential recipients.

“It is critical that we communicate these additional protections for our residents in a highly visible and broad manner prior to August 31,” said BURA Vice-Chair Brendan Mehaffy. Our campaign will cast a wide net with outreach efforts in every neighborhood in our city.”

The new campaign is a component of the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency’s STAND UP Buffalo initiative. For additional information, qualifications, and documentation requirements, please visit the OTDA Rental Assistance website at otda.ny.gov/ERAP.

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number ERA0275 awarded to the City of Buffalo by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

###

About the City of Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency

The Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (BURA) is a public benefit corporation that was formed by an act of the New York State Legislature in 1966. We strive to promote the expeditious undertaking, financing and completion of community development programs and create quality and vibrant urban living in Buffalo through neighborhood driven development projects.

