

Governor Lamont's order – [Executive Order No. 7X](#) – includes a provision to protect residential renters during the public health crisis.

If you cannot pay rent due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 emergency, the following options apply:

- If you were unable to pay April rent, Governor Lamont's most recent Executive Order provides an automatic 60-day grace period for April rent. This means you automatically have an additional 60 days from the date your April rent was due to make the rent payment, free of late charges, interest, or risk of eviction.
- If you will not be able to pay rent in May due to the COVID-19 emergency because you lost your job, lost income, or have other COVID-19 related expenses, you can request a 60-day grace period to pay rent owed. You must make this request in writing by text message, email or letter on or before the 9th day after the rent is due. You should keep a copy of your request to your landlord. Following this request, your landlord is not allowed to evict you, charge late fees or interest, or impose any other penalties against you if you pay your rent within the 60-day grace period.
- If you paid a security deposit amount for more than one month's rent, you can ask your landlord to apply the extra security deposit amount towards a missed rent payment in April, May, or June 2020. You must make this request in writing and you should keep a copy of your request. **Your landlord cannot demand that you re-pay this security deposit amount until after the Governor declares an end to the COVID-19 public health emergency**

What else can you do?

- If you lost income and you live in public or subsidized housing (WHA) or pay the rent with a RAP or Section 8 voucher, [report the change in income immediately to the administrator](#). You should get in writing any agreement your landlord makes with you.
- File for unemployment, people who don't usually qualify for unemployment benefits may qualify now, including partially employed people, independent contractors, and the self-employed. You can [find more information here](#) or call 860-263-6975 or 203-455-2653 if you have questions.

How About Utility Bills Due?

Residential customers are strongly encouraged to continue paying their utility bills, as they will ultimately be responsible for any services accrued. If you cannot afford the full amount of your budget plan, a partial payment is highly recommended. For residents who are enrolled in Connecticut's Energy Assistance Program partial payments may lead to additional funding. All residents who would like to learn about other payment programs being offered, can call Eversource credit and collections department at [800-286-2828](tel:800-286-2828) or SCG Customer Care Dept at [800.659.8299](tel:800.659.8299) Both utilities have suspended disconnections for non-payment.