

The following is an update from the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston with regards to the recent ruling by the United States Supreme Court to overturn the CDC Eviction Moratorium extension.

As a landlord for 2,732 families in the Charleston region, the Authority takes its responsibility to ensure safe, decent, and affordable housing to its tenants very seriously.

"COVID-19 continues to be a challenge, and we recognize the burden that this latest surge puts on our residents as they attempt to recover from the pandemic and gain new employment or return to their previous places of work," said current COO and incoming CEO of the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston Art Milligan. "We have already taken steps to suspend fees for late-payments and will continue to look for ways to help our residents navigate these circumstances, which includes helping them obtain the rental assistance they need and deserve. It is our goal to help our residents and do everything in our power to keep them in their homes."

This commitment is a continuation of the steps the Authority has taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- At the outset of the pandemic, the Authority took steps to significantly reduce rent for public housing residents who had their employment affected, either via hours cut or job loss.
- The Authority also suspended late fees beginning April 1, 2020. That suspension remains in place.

While the above steps are helpful, for many who are facing obstacles to employment due to the pandemic, they are not enough to make ends meet.

For those who fall into this category, we encourage you to apply and take advantage of the rental assistance funding that remains available to help cover the gap and meet your needs during this difficult time. You can find a list with links to those resources here:

- Palmetto CAPS
- <u>Charleston Area Urban League</u>
- Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Authority and its staff are open and accessible for anyone who has questions and concerns about their rent status and are here to help walk through assistance applications so that you may obtain the rental assistance needed. If you have further questions about the above information, please feel free to contact us at 843-720-3683.