



STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Hopkinton Latest Community to Use CPA \$\$\$ for COVID-19 Housing Help

Katie Lannan, SHNS

August 16, 2021..... Certain Hopkinton residents struggling to pay their housing costs because of COVID-19 will now be able to apply for assistance from the town, thanks to a May vote to set up an emergency relief program.

Hopkinton officials are taking applications through Sept. 1 for its new COVID-19 Emergency Housing Relief Program, which will cover up to 70 percent of a household's monthly rent payment or deed-restricted mortgage payment. Those eligible for mortgage assistance live in homes subject to an affordable housing restriction, and rental assistance is available for households living in units eligible for inclusion on the state's Subsidized Housing Inventory.

"The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has been difficult for all, but some have felt the financial burden heavier than others due to a loss of income or other financial means," Town Manager Norman Khumalo said. "To combat this unexpected financial burden, we encourage residents to apply for our COVID-19 Emergency Housing Relief Program that will assist them with their housing costs."

In May, Hopkinton Town Meeting voted to approve the use of \$90,000 in Community Preservation Act money reserved for community housing to [fund the program](#), joining several municipalities pursuing similar approaches. The Beverly City Council in June 2020 [approved](#) the use of \$240,000 in CPA funding for an emergency housing assistance program, and Newton [used](#) a combination of CPA money and Community Development Block Grant funds for its program. Other cities and towns that approved the use of CPA funds for pandemic-related housing assistance include Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge, Canton, Chelsea, Easthampton, Malden, Manchester, Medford, Monson, Pittsfield, Rockland, Stoughton, Stow, Sunderland, Waltham, Wellfleet and Weston, according to a Community Preservation Coalition database.

-END-

08/16/2021

Serving the working press since 1894

<http://www.statehousenews.com>

<https://www.statehousenews.com/news/20211551>