



## United Way of Story County

### Rent/Eviction Information & Help:

The temporary emergency moratorium on evictions expired in Iowa in May, while several federal moratoriums expired in July. If you are facing eviction or have concerns about owing rent, please contact:

1. **Legal Aid Society of Story County**, housed in Nevada. Eviction and related landlord-tenant cases are being treated as "crisis" cases and will receive prompt assistance. Call 515-382-2471
2. **Iowa Legal Aid Hotline**. Free advice, Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm. 1-800-332-0419
3. Financial assistance providers listed below for help with rent payments.

### Emergency Financial Assistance Providers:

All Story County providers are accepting applications over the phone and/or by email during the pandemic.

**Ames United Church of Christ: Rent, utilities, medical bill assistance** for those experiencing income or job loss due to COVID-19. The payee needs to be able to accept a credit card via phone or the internet. Contact Pr. Eileen Gebbie at either [eileen@amesucc.org](mailto:eileen@amesucc.org) or 515-232-9323.

**Christ Community Church (Ames): Rent and utility assistance** when funds are available. Must be an Ames resident. Documents required: Rental assistance needs photo ID, lease/rental agreement with landlord's information. Utility assistance needs a utility bill. Call (515) 232-2765 or email [info@ccames.org](mailto:info@ccames.org).

**Covid-19 Emergency Fund for Story County Immigrants (at St. Cecilia, Ames): Emergency assistance for rent, utilities, and other necessities like prescriptions.** Please note, rent dollars will be provided directly to the landlord and utility payments will be provided directly to the utility company. Assistance provided once per month or as needed. To be eligible, you must: Live in Story County, be an immigrant (this includes undocumented immigrants), have an immediate expense that is past-due, due now, or due within the next 7 days. Paper applications in both Spanish and English are available at St. Cecilia's Narthex or Rosita's Mexican Store. You can also apply online in Spanish or English at: <https://tinyurl.com/storyimmigrantfund>. **Se habla espanol! We also speak Dinka, Arabic, and French.**

**The Bridge Home (formerly Emergency Residence Project, Ames): Homelessness prevention \$.** Call 515-232-8075 / [erp@amesshelter.org](mailto:erp@amesshelter.org) / <http://www.amesshelter.org/> for an application.

**Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance (Ames): Rent, utility, gas, and food vouchers available.** Good Neighbor is taking applications by phone and email only at this time. Pick up of Healthy Food vouchers will be from a medically safe and secure location. Note: Good Neighbor is adjusting their help during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond; help may be available more than once per year. Please reach out! 515-296-1449 / [assistance@gnea.org](mailto:assistance@gnea.org)

**MICA Cares Program (Ames): Rent/mortgage and utility assistance.** Assistance is by phone only. Call 515-956-3333. Spanish-speaking caseworkers available if needed.

**St. Patrick's "Good Samaritan" Financial Assistance Program (Nevada): Rent, utility, and gas assistance.** This program is for residents of eastern Story County: Must live on east side of interstate (Cambridge, Collins, Colo, Fernald, Maxwell, McCallsburg, Nevada, Roland, Zearing). Provide rent and utility assistance every 6 months (up to \$200). Provide gas assistance for work or medical appointments only every 3 months. Students are not eligible for the program. Assistance is currently by phone only, please call! Denials are

not currently required; landlord and utility company information is still required for those requesting rent or utility assistance; driver's license is required for those requesting gas assistance. 515-382-2974

**St. Thomas' "Love Your Neighbor" program (Ames): Rent and utility assistance.** Applications should be made by phone, email, or mail. If a client does not have internet access to email documents, will accept verbal documentation rather than hard copy documentation. 515-292-3810 / tom@staparish.net

**Story County Community Services: Rent and utility assistance.** Help can be accessed 1x in 6 month period or up to 3 consecutive months if there is a medical reason individual is unable to work. The general assistance application is on their website at <https://www.storycountyiaowa.gov/345/General-Assistance>. You also can call and staff will email a PDF fillable application that you can return via email, print and mail, or leave in a drop box available outside their building. (Note: The Community Services office at 126 South Kellogg Ste 001 in Ames is closed to the public.) Call 515-663-2930 / [communityservices@storycountyiaowa.gov](mailto:communityservices@storycountyiaowa.gov)

**The Salvation Army (Ames): Rent, utility, other emergency assistance.** All assistance is by appointment only. Call to schedule phone interviews for homelessness prevention dollars. Help may be available more than once per year! 515-233-3567 / [cari.mcpartland@USC.salvationarmy.org](mailto:cari.mcpartland@USC.salvationarmy.org)

## Other Financial Assistance Resources:

**City of Ames Rent, Mortgage and Utility Relief Assistance Program:** This program is for low-income households impacted by loss of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic to assist with their mortgage, rent, and utilities. These funds may only be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus for households at 80 percent or less of the Ames median income limits. The City of Ames Housing Division will begin accepting applications on Monday, Aug. 24. Applications and program guidelines (including income limits) will be available online at [www.cityofames.org/housing](http://www.cityofames.org/housing) in the "What's New Box," or for pick-up in the front corridor (east side of building) of City Hall, 515 Clark Ave. Application drop-off will also begin on Monday, Aug. 24. The drop-off location will be at the City Hall Auditorium (north side of building) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call the Housing Division's Hotline number at 515.239.5380.

**Iowa Foreclosure and Eviction Prevention Program, Iowa Finance Authority:** Governor Reynolds has allocated federal CARES Act funds to assist Iowans who have been economically impacted by COVID-19 and may be facing housing hardships. This program will provide **short-term relief to income-eligible renters and homeowners who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure:**

- **RENTAL ASSISTANCE:** Rental assistance for up to four months (this can include up to two months in arrears) beginning with April 1 rent payment, (\$3,200 maximum).
  - o Includes manufactured home rent and lot rent.
- **MORTGAGE PAYMENT ASSISTANCE:** Mortgage assistance for up to four months (this can include up to two months in arrears) beginning with April 1 mortgage payment, (\$3,000 maximum).

For more information and to apply, go to: <https://www.iowafinance.com/covid-19-iowa-eviction-and-foreclosure-prevention-program/>

**Iowa Individual Disaster Assistance Grant Program:** The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 for households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level or a maximum annual income of \$41,560 for a family of three. Grants are available for **home or car repairs, replacement of clothing or food, and temporary housing expenses.** Original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses **related to storm recovery.** This grant program is activated when the Governor issues a disaster proclamation turning on IIAGP for the affected counties; this includes Story County. Download the application at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/disaster-assistance-programs> OR call 1-877-347-5678 (state number) or 515-956-3333 (MICA, local agency who is handling emergency grants for state).

**Iowa State Student Financial Assistance:** For any ISU students in need of assistance, the Student Services team would be happy to connect with you to discuss resources. Email: [studentassistance@iastate.edu](mailto:studentassistance@iastate.edu).

For updates and other helpful community resources, please visit United Way of Story County's website at [www.uwstory.org](http://www.uwstory.org) or call 515-268-5142. Another option: call 2-1-1