



Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Improvement Act of 2021

[Bill Text](#)

The inability of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to execute its primary function of keeping people in their homes is a systemic policy failure that requires systemic solutions.

The **ERAP Improvement Act of 2021** will significantly increase the number of public access points where tenants can apply for much needed emergency rental assistance and help streamline this cumbersome process. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (ERA-1) and the American Rescue Plan (ERA-2) allocated over \$46 billion in emergency rental assistance funds because lawmakers recognized the dire need for unprecedented levels of federal funding to mitigate the catastrophic effects of the pandemic.

The **ERAP Improvement Act of 2021** will:

- Direct the Department of Treasury to provide guidance to grantees to drastically expand access to the emergency rental assistance application in the following public entities within 30 days of the enacted legislation:
 - K-12 public schools,
 - public libraries,
 - public housing agencies,
 - public transit systems,
 - the Department of Motor Vehicles,
 - the US Postal Service, and
 - social service programs.
- Encourage ERA grantees to collaborate with the aforementioned public entities to store, distribute, and assist with individual applications.
- Allow up to 15 percent of ERA-1 funds available from the Consolidated Appropriations Act to be used for increasing administrative capacity for the following activities, up from the current 10 percent cap:
 - training staff or other designated institutional representatives;
 - maintaining both physical and electronic copies of the application;

- establishing communication methods between grantees, public entities, and individual households;
- developing community outreach materials, programs, and initiatives; and
- collecting and storing data on-site or via third parties.

The ERAP Improvement Act of 2021 will vastly improve the accessibility of ERA to facilitate the seamless distribution of the remaining \$40 billion in emergency funding to renters in the interest of public health and safety. Keeping people in their homes for the duration of the pandemic and beyond is among the highest priorities for Congresswoman Cori Bush.