

Polk County

Board of Supervisors Office News



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POLK COUNTY ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL \$14 MILLION IN RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

Distribution services set to shift to IMPACT Des Moines to manage cases.

Des Moines, IA- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on both tenants and landlords in Polk County as the economic downturn has cost thousands of jobs. In an effort to stave off a wave of evictions, Polk County and the Polk County Housing Trust fund have been assisting qualified households to pay rent and back rent. To date, the rent assistance program has assisted more than 1,000 households. This program has prevented homelessness for many of those tenants, including children.

Last fall the Polk County Board of Supervisors approved providing \$800,000 to the Polk County Housing Trust fund dollars, who set up a table at the Polk County Justice Center to intercept pending evictions. They approved an additional \$650,000 this year. Community partners, including Nationwide, Principal Financial Group, F&G, United Way of Central Iowa and the Disaster Recovery Fund, also assisted in raising substantial funds from the corporate community to keep this assistance available through the end of February. However, recently \$14 million in federal aid was provided to Polk County and the City of Des Moines. These funds will be distributed through IMPACT Des Moines starting March 1.

The new IMPACT Emergency Rental Assistance Program will be key to preventing evictions in the months ahead. Features of the new program include:

- Assistance with reimbursement of back rent from April 2020 to present.
- Up to three months of future rent can be paid.
- A total of 12 months of back rent and future rent can be paid for a tenant.
- Utilities assistance is available.
- Both tenants and landlords can apply for the program.

As the Justice Center program winds down, it is anticipated that assistance will be available after February 22 for tenants and landlords through IMPACT. Please visit www.ImpactCAP.org for the most up-to-date information.