

# WAYNE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY HOUSING DEPARTMENT

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## ERAP Prioritization Policy

Effective date: July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Purpose: Due to ERAP funding availability becoming increasingly limited, Wayne County must begin prioritizing applicants, to ensure support reaches critical-need populations. As such, Wayne County will begin preferencing households which are facing immediate threat of eviction, or utility shut off. Additionally, preference will be weighted towards first-time applicants, to ensure resources are able to reach the widest population in need. The policy listed below goes into further clarification.

Policy: Assist eligible households with the following criteria:

- Reduce the number of months assistance is received, to ensure everyone in need is able to apply (vs. the same applicants receiving maximum amount of assistance available);
- Pay arrearages only, such as past due rent and utilities (as opposed to prospective rent and utilities, as those with arrearages may be facing more immediate threat of eviction);
- Give preference to first-time applicants, with the intent to provide funding to everyone in need before providing additional funding to those who have already received support;
- Limit eligible household income to <50% AMI (area median income) for Wayne County;
- Unemployed households which have been unemployed for 90 days or longer;
- Prioritize at-risk households of housing displacement or utility shut off;

Procedure: The below prioritization tool will be used to score each application and rank priority. Each qualifier is awarded one point.

### Prioritizing Qualifiers

**At-risk of Homelessness – Facing Eviction/Notice to Quit**

**Unemployed for 90 Days or Longer**

**Extremely Low-income Households (<30% AMI)**

**Low-income Households (<50% AMI)**

**Households with Utility Shut-offs**

**Assistance Received 1-6 Months**

**First-time Applicants**

### Priority Eligibility

**Critical Priority** 5-7 Points

**Moderate Priority** 3-4 Points

**Low Priority** 0-2 Points

*\*Other applications that do not receive any points under these criteria, but otherwise meet eligibility requirements, will be reviewed after all prioritized applications.*