

Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

[Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#)- Program may provide help to a senior adult, age 60 or older, who 1) rents an apartment, house, or mobile home; 2) is unable to pay his/her rent because of an emergency or temporary situation; and 3) has income below the 2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Rental payment goes directly to the landlord.

[Salvation Army of the Midlands](#)- Agency pays all or part of the housing rental cost for a person or family who cannot make the full payment and who are usually at risk of being evicted. Financial assistance is based on whether or not the Salvation Army has funds available and the income and situation of the person(s) in need.

[Aiken/Barnwell/Lexington Community Action Commission, Cayce Office](#)- Pays rent by voucher for those who qualify. Bring past due rent notice. Call and ask for the General Emergency Assistance Program for details. They support affordable quality housing, especially for the elderly, ask for Housing Assistance for details.

[God's Helping Hands](#) -God's Helping Hands is a Christian organization that serves residents of Cayce and West Columbia who are in a crisis situation. They focus on working with the elderly/disabled living in poverty, the working poor, and the residents experiencing an immediate crisis situation. Rental Assistance is when an agency may pay all or part of the housing rental cost for a person or family who cannot make the full payment and who are usually at risk of being evicted.

[Lexington Social Service Center](#)- Lexington Interfaith Community Services may make payments on behalf of an individual or families who cannot afford their rental payment or mortgage payment and who are at risk of eviction.

[Wateree Community Actions, Inc., Columbia Office](#) Agency may help individuals with rental assistance and/or payment for temporary shelter. Call and ask about the General Emergency Assistance Program for more details. The purpose of this program is to assist eligible clients in meeting emergency needs. Assistance is given during a crisis situation.

[Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services](#) - Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services (PALSS) can assist low-income persons who have HIV/AIDS with short-term rent, mortgage, and utility payments through HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS). HOPWA is meant to help persons with HIV/AIDS get into and stay in permanent housing. In the Columbia area, HOPWA provides vouchers through the Columbia Cares Housing Assistance Program (CCHAP), which is administered by the Columbia Housing Authority. CCHAP can pay a portion of a qualified person's rent each month over the long term to prevent him/her from becoming homeless. For more information about HOPWA and other housing assistance programs, contact a housing case manager at (803) 779-7257.