

ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2022

DFA offers housing assistance to renters whose housing was destroyed by the 2022 Wildfire Season through Rental Assistance Program

SANTA FE - Renters currently displaced by wildfires may be able to receive aid through the New Mexico Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which (ERAP) allows New Mexico renters to receive aid for current, temporary, or new rental housing in New Mexico.

ERAP may be available for those affected by wildfires who:

- Are New Mexico renters whose rental unit was destroyed by a 2022 wildfire, and;
- The applicant or household makes under 80% of the average median income for each respective county.

Potential assistance includes:

- Temporary hotel/motel cost at a New Mexico establishment
- Three months of future rent and utilities
 - Assistance is only for housing in New Mexico

This assistance is only available to renters – not homeowners – whose unit was destroyed by the wildfire.

Individuals should visit [DFA's website](#) to begin the application process. Those affected by the fires will receive priority for temporary housing placement. Renters should fill out the contact information on the website, and a staff member will contact you.

“We have housing resources available now, so we want to help our fellow New Mexicans during this critical time using the programs that are up and running until more aid comes the state’s way,” said Debbie Romero, Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Finance and Administration. “For over a year, we have been providing housing assistance to families impacted by the pandemic. We encourage renters affected by these catastrophic wildfires to reach out and see if they too are eligible to receive housing support.”

The ERAP program remains available to other eligible New Mexicans who qualify.

All New Mexicans affected by the wildfires are urged to register for FEMA individual assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov.

Since May of 2021, ERAP has provided funds to assist households unable to pay rent or utilities during the pandemic. Funding and guidance for the program come from the U.S. Treasury. To date, DFA has issued 54,424 awards totaling \$129,944,205.72 in rental and utility assistance.

For more information,

<https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/office-of-the-secretary/erap-fire-assistance/>

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