

HOUSTON-HARRIS COUNTY  
**EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Administered by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and BakerRipley



## Application Selection Process

The Houston-Harris County Emergency Rental Assistance Program operates to ensure fairness and equitable treatment of all applicants.

The program uses random selection of applications, rather than selecting them on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no guarantees that an applicant will receive funding, nor is there a way to project exactly when an application could be selected.

The program uses a prioritization process to ensure that individuals who have the highest need (based on level of income and household financial circumstances) are selected before households with more resources or better household financial circumstances.

### Process Overview

The program evaluates and sorts applications into three groups, or priority tiers, and assigns a random number to each application within each tier. This sorting process happens every two weeks, using applications that are received in those past two weeks.

Applications are then selected for processing based on priority tier and in order of the randomly-assigned number. For example, all current tier 1 applications must be selected before eligibility specialists at BakerRipley and Catholic Charities receive applications from tier 2.

Applications that are identified as being in active eviction proceedings are automatically selected and routed for processing by The Alliance through the Eviction Intervention program.

### Priority Tier Criteria

**Tier 1:** Households with reported income at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) OR unemployed for the 90 days prior to application date AND monthly rent below area Fair Market Rent (FMR)

**Tier 2:** Households with reported income at or below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) OR unemployed for the 90 days prior to application date AND monthly rent above area Fair Market Rent (FMR)

**Tier 3:** Households with reported income between 51%-80% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

**Note:** The program utilizes the AMI (Area Median Income) and FMR (Fair Market Rent) rates established by HUD for the 2021 program year; FMR is determined using rental unit assumptions based on household size.

### 2021 Area Median Income

Household Size	50% AMI Annual Income	80% AMI Annual Income
1	\$27,750	\$44,350
2	\$31,700	\$50,700
3	\$35,650	\$57,050
4	\$39,600	\$63,350
5	\$42,800	\$68,450
6	\$45,950	\$73,500
7	\$49,150	\$78,600
8	\$52,300	\$83,650