

# City of Chicago Mortgage Assistance - FAQ

## Who qualifies for the grant?

This grant program is intended for Chicago residents who have been impacted by the economic fallout from COVID-19, including people who have lost their jobs through layoff or furlough, as well as people who have retained their jobs but have had their hours or wages severely reduced. Applicant must also be 18 years of age or over, or a financially independent minor.

## Who does not qualify for the grant?

If you hold a mortgage from a government-sponsored enterprise (GSE), you are not eligible for this grant. If you have a Veterans Administration loan (VA), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) or an FHA-insured mortgage, you are not eligible for this grant.

## Is there an income requirement?

Eligible Chicagoans must demonstrate that their household was **at or below 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI)** prior to their change in employment status (due to the crisis) in order to receive the grant. For instance, if you live in a household with four people, to meet the income eligibility requirements, your total household income would have to be at or below \$109,200. Use the chart below to determine your income eligibility. First, find the number of people in your household and then look below at the maximum total income allowable for the size of your household.

## City of Chicago Area Median Income Limits (AMI) Chart (as of April 1, 2020):

Household Size	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
120% Area Median Income	\$76,440	\$87,360	\$98,280	\$109,200	\$117,960	\$126,720	\$135,480	\$144,240

\*See full chart at: [https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/doh/provdrs/renters/svcs/ami\\_chart.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/doh/provdrs/renters/svcs/ami_chart.html)

## Do I have to be diagnosed with COVID-19 coronavirus to be eligible to receive the grant?

Being diagnosed with COVID-19 coronavirus is not a requirement to receive this grant. The COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant is meant to assist Chicagoans who have experienced a loss of employment or reduction in income (after March 1, 2020) due to COVID-19 outbreak and government mandated sheltering place orders. If you have experienced a loss of income due to having to self-quarantine because you were exposed to or contracted the virus, you may be eligible for the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant.

**Can every member of the household apply for grant?**

Only one (1) grant per household/address will be awarded.

**I am on a fixed income. Do I qualify?**

Residents on a fixed income do not qualify for this program. The COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant is meant to assist Chicagoans who have experienced a loss of employment or reduction in income (after March 1, 2020) due to COVID-19.

**What about people with non-traditional jobs such as freelancers, temporary workers, on-demand workers, event-based workers (e.g. people in arts and entertainment), independent contractors, those in cash employment roles, etc.?**

The NHS team is dedicated to processing applications in a personal and professional manner and will work with you to verify any documentation you are able to provide to determine your eligibility. All applicants must make best efforts to demonstrate their eligibility for the program, including those with non-traditional employment situations.

**Are you having a lottery to determine who receives the grants?**

Grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis based on receipt of a complete set of proof of eligibility documents.

**What is the process for receiving my grant money?**

The grant money will be delivered in the form of a wire transfer to the client's loan servicer. The client will also be notified via e-mail. If you have questions related to this area, please call us at 800-831-7949.