

Move-in Assistance and Eviction Prevention Program (MIA&EP) FAQs

1. **Q:** An applicant's adult child has a diagnosed and documented serious mental illness, does that meet the SMI eligibility criteria?

A: Yes. The applicant **or** a household member must have a diagnosed and documented serious mental illness or co-occurring substance use disorder.

2. **Q:** An applicant makes 45% of Area Median Income, are there other programs I can refer the applicant to?

A: If the applicant meets other eligibility criteria, they **ARE** eligible for MIAEP. There is **NO** income minimum or maximum.

3. **Q:** An applicant is \$700 behind on rent, can we give the landlord the \$1,000 maximum?

A: Funds can only be issued for the documented amount. In this case, \$700.

4. **Q:** An applicant is behind on rent, but they haven't been issued an eviction notice because of the coronavirus pandemic. What do I do?

A: During the eviction moratorium a statement of past due amounts will be accepted instead of an eviction notice.

5. **Q:** An applicant is not receiving behavioral health services, are they eligible?

A: No, for MIAEP the applicant or a household member must currently be receiving behavioral health services from a Statewide Entity approved provider.

6. **Q:** An applicant is not literally houseless, they are couch surfing, but are running out of places to stay. Are they eligible?

A: Yes. If the individual or household will become homeless they are eligible. This includes couch surfing or when a household is "doubled-up."

7. **Q:** An applicant received funds last year, can we help them again?

A: The maximum grant amount of \$1,000 can be awarded once every three years. If an applicant received \$500 last year, they could access \$500 this year. After reaching the \$1,000 cap the applicant would need to wait three years.

8. Q: An applicant owes a past landlord and that is preventing the applicant from moving into a new unit. Can MIAEP funds be used for past due amounts?

A: Yes, MIAEP can be used to pay off past due amounts if the previous obligation is preventing an applicant from securing a new housing unit. The limit of \$1,000 still applies.

9. Q: An applicant needs internet for work and/or school. Is internet an eligible expense?

A: No. MIAEP can be used for electric, gas/propane, and water only.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) operates Lifeline to help make communication services (phone and internet) more affordable. Applicant's may be eligible for a bill credit. A number of private companies have also created lower cost programs in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Lastly, if the household includes children many school districts have negotiated reduced-cost internet plans or provided hot-spots to families in need.

10. Q: Does an applicant need to be a U.S. citizen?

A: No. The application and invoicing system asks for the last four digits of a Social Security Number (SSN). You can enter "unknown."

11. Q: An applicant owns their home. Can they receive help with their mortgage?

A: No. MIAEP is for rent only. Visit the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority website (<http://nmhousing.org/>) to explore resources for those who own their home.

12. Q: An applicant owns their home. Can they receive help with utilities?

A: Yes!

Questions? Email Lisa Howley and Cathy Trujillo for assistance.

lisa.howley@state.nm.us

cathy.trujillo@state.nm.us