OREGON RENTERS NEED RELIEF: CANCEL THE RENT!

CAT TENANT HOTLINE & SURVEY OF OREGON RENTERS

Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, 40% of Oregon’s low income tenants paid more than half of their income on rent. Now, over 100,000 of these cost-burdened renter households have lost work.

MOST RENTERS HAVE BEEN PAYING THE RENT THROUGH EMERGENCY

RENTERS PAID ALL OR SOME RENT

77% of tenants have paid full or part rent every month

HOW TENANTS COVER THE RENT

Renters make every effort to pay rent by going without essential needs and by using saved money that depletes their resilience for any further emergency.

HOW ARE YOU PAYING THE RENT?

52% Cutting back on essential needs
52% Using savings
33% Applying for unemployment

community alliance of tenants
Portland State Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative
AFTER 4 MONTHS OF HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EMERGENCY:

35% OWE SOME BACK RENT
Most tenants who have rent debt cannot pay it back.

OREGON’S BIPOC RENTERS HAVE BEEN HIT THE HARDEST!
56% of BIPOC renters owe some back rent.

BIPOC RENTERS WHO PAID ALL OR SOME RENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>59%</td>
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AND ALL RENTERS ARE BEING HARMED

84% REPORT HEALTH IMPACTS
Renters experiencing physical or mental health stress due to their housing situation.

CAT HOTLINE: 585 CALLERS (3/15/20-6/30/20)

- 52% Extremely low income
- 47% People with disabilities
- 23% Single mother family
- 15% Elders
TOO MANY LANDLORDS ARE NOT HOLDING UP THEIR END OF THE RELATIONSHIP

22% of landlords are being hostile, harassing, or threatening

23% of landlords are not communicating at all

Even during the emergency, hundreds of tenants sought help with eviction threats, rent increases, and landlords not following health guidelines. Callers to CAT’s hotline need more information about the eviction moratorium and their rights during the pandemic.

I can’t afford to stay, but the landlord won’t let me break my lease without paying a huge fee.

I’ve gotten a no cause eviction notice - even during the moratorium!

Do I have to let the manager or prospective tenants into my apartment during the health emergency?

My landlord is pressuring me to pay and charging late fees.

Can my landlord increase the rent during the pandemic?

SURVEY: 460 RESPONDENTS
(conducted by PSU, 6/23/20-7/23/20)

- 53% Working currently
- 39% People with disabilities
- 31% LGBTQ
- 17% Single parent family
- 40% BIPOC
- 17% Immigrant, refugee
OREGON’S TENANTS NEED TRUE STABILITY, IN AND BEYOND THE PANDEMIC

Based on our findings, essential principles for pandemic recovery housing policy are:

- **Forgiveness of rent, arrears, and late fees for the duration of the pandemic**
- **Emergency housing supports for tenants who are unsafe in their homes**
- **Protection against retaliation and harassment by landlords**
- **Universal access without restrictive eligibility requirement and lengthy applications**

THE EVICTION MORATORIUM IS IMPORTANT, BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH

Many tenants have reached the limit of their capacity to keep up with current rent and also pay past due amounts.

Oregon has not funded sufficient rent assistance for everyone in need, leaving tens of thousands of renter households at risk of eviction and houselessness when the moratorium ends. The costs of a mass eviction event — to individuals, families, communities, and the general public — would be enormous.

Report and policy proposal at https://www.oregoncat.org/cancel-the-rent-campaign