KERA CLOSING FAQs

Why is the KERA program ending?

A year and a half after <u>Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA)</u> launched, all funds have been expended, and the program has closed. More than **\$290 million** provided relief for nearly **82,000** Kansans and more than **11,000** housing and service providers, preventing evictions and providing vital services to more than **32,000** households in the state.

When is the KERA program ending?

The KERA program has closed because all program funds have been exhausted. The KERA application portal has closed, and we have stopped accepting new applications. **Unfortunately, there was not sufficient funding to accommodate all applications.** Any further communications about your application will be sent via email.

The closure process followed three phases. Here's what this meant for Kansas renters in need of assistance:

- 1. **Final Funding Phase:** On Oct. 7, 2022, households were encouraged to apply or reapply for final assistance as soon as possible. The program has now exhausted all funding and is no longer accepting new applications.
- 2. <u>Hold Phase:</u> Applications submitted during the Hold Phase were placed on hold status. These applications will not be reviewed or processed because sufficient program funds are no longer available.
- 3. **Closure Phase:** All program funds are exhausted. The program has closed and will stop accepting new applications.

The KERA program is now in the Closure Phase. This announcement has also been made on the <u>KERA</u> web page.

What if my application is "On Hold" when the program closes?

At this time all program funds have been expended, and the program is now closed. **Unfortunately,** there was not sufficient funding to accommodate applications on hold. Any further communications about your application will be sent via email. KERA application portal is now closed and is no longer accessible to applicants. We apologize for this inconvenience and recommend that applicants who did not receive KERA funding seek <u>additional housing resources</u> beyond the KERA program.

What should I do if I still need assistance with rent, utilities, or other housing resources?

Kansans in need of rental and/or utility assistance following the closure of the KERA program may qualify for additional housing resources, some of which are also administered by KHRC.

I haven't hit my 18-month limit yet. Will I receive assistance for the remaining months?

While eligible KERA households are qualified to receive up to 18 months of assistance, some households may not reach this threshold due to the exhaustion of program funds.

*The KERA program is now in the Closure Phase. Please see the KERA web page for more information.

When will I receive payment?

Unfortunately, there was not sufficient funding to accommodate all applications. Any further communications about your application will be sent via email. The KERA application portal is now closed and is no longer accessible to applicants. We recommend that applicants seek <u>additional housing resources</u> beyond the KERA program.

When will you stop issuing KERA payments?

At this time the program is now closed. **Unfortunately, there was not sufficient funding to accommodate all applications. Any further communications about your application will be sent via email.** The KERA application portal is now closed and is no longer accessible to applicants. We recommend that applicants seek **additional housing resources** beyond the KERA program.

What is KHRC doing to assist Kansas tenants who can't afford their rent and utility payments?

Kansans in need of rental and/or utility assistance following the closure of the KERA program may qualify for additional housing resources, some of which are also administered by KHRC.

With expanded <u>Weatherization Assistance Program</u> funding for renters and homeowners, KHRC anticipates that 2,330 additional income-eligible households will be eligible for free weatherization upgrades to lower utility bills and improve home energy efficiency. Click the program link above to view income limits and contact the community partner serving your area to apply.

Even before the pandemic, Kansans faced a shortage of quality, affordable housing. This was a key finding of our <u>2021 housing needs assessment</u>, the first completed in nearly 30 years. KHRC is working to address the state's underlying housing needs by expanding housing resources across the state. In addition to our current program offerings, new and expanded programs aim to create more housing for low and moderate-income Kansans.

The expansion of KHRC's <u>Moderate Income Housing</u> program and a new Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit (KHITC) will incentivize developers to build more affordable homes for working families. Our new <u>Home Loan Guarantee for Rural Kansas</u> program will alleviate the appraisal gap faced by homeowners in rural areas. <u>New HOME-ARP</u> funding will help create safe, affordable homes for vulnerable populations at risk of homelessness. These are just a few of the ways KHRC is *Unlocking Home* for Kansans.

Together with our community partners, housing stakeholders, and state leaders, KHRC will continue to help Kansans access the safe, affordable housing they need and the dignity they deserve.

For general KERA program questions, refer to the general <u>KERA Program FAQs</u> and more detailed <u>KERA Program Guidelines</u>.