

## Monmouth County Board of County Commissioners and New Jersey SHARES have joined forces to offer assistance to Monmouth County tenants with essential utility arrearage funding

Through direct funding received by Monmouth County from the United States Department of Treasury under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) New Jersey SHARES has partnered with the County to provide assistance with tenant's utility bills.

Since 1998 NJ SHARES has served as a "safety net" for households that face an emergency or a crisis situation. These unexpected circumstances may result in the household's inability to pay for vital services, which include but are not limited to - energy (gas, electric), water, communications and housing. Working with our affiliated social service and legislative partners Monmouth County, NJ SHARES looks for a holistic solution - addressing each household's individual circumstance, whether temporary or sustained.



"Through this important partnership with Monmouth County, we welcome the opportunity to put our long-standing working relationship with the State's regulated utilities to work for the County's tenants," said NJ SHARES CEO Cheryl Stowell. "These important ERAP funds will provide up to 12 months of utility arrearage assistance for those tenants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and meet the program eligibility requirements. Tenants who have experienced a loss of income or significant financial hardship and are burdened with significant natural gas or electric bills can contact New Jersey SHARES directly for assistance."

Beginning Monday, November 15th Monmouth County tenants with utility bill arrearage can contact New Jersey SHARES by calling 1-866-657-4273 Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5:30pm or by visiting us at <https://njsharesgreen.org/monmouth-county-apply/>

Text messaging is also available - text HELP to 64405 to connect with a New Jersey SHARES customer service representative. Message and data rates may apply.