



What is the difference between RentHelpMN and The Zero Balance Project?

[RentHelpMN](#) and [The Zero Balance Project](#) are both emergency rental assistance programs, funded through the same federal grant program. RentHelpMN is a statewide program where the renter leads the application process. The Zero Balance Project serves Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey counties where the property owners and managers lead the application process. See below for highlights of each program.

Program Features:

[RentHelpMN](#)

- Statewide
- Both tenants and property owners/managers can start applications
- Renters provide income and demographic information, past-due rent and/or utility bills and lease agreement and demonstrate impact by COVID.
- Property owners/managers provide property and payment information and verify amount owed.
- Income limits: 80% AMI
- Maximum assistance: Up to 15 months
- Eligible expenses include rent, rental fees, utilities and tenant-paid utilities
- Applications accepted on an open pipeline basis through at least December 2021
- Total funding \$518 million
- For more information, call 211

[The Zero Balance Project](#)

- Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey counties, including Minneapolis and St. Paul
- Property owners/managers start applications
- Property owners/managers provide lease, property information, amount owed and payment information.
- Renters provide income and demographic information, and demonstrate impact by COVID.
- Income limits: 80% AMI
- Maximum assistance: Up to 15 months
- Eligible expenses include rent, rental fees and utilities that are included in the lease. Utilities in the renter's name are not eligible under this program.
- Applications accepted June 7 to June 20, 2021 or until funding runs out
- Total funding \$34 million, with potential to add funds as needed
- For more information, email zerobalanceproject@housinglink.org

Frequently Asked Questions

My property owner/manager invited me to apply for assistance through The Zero Balance Project. Can I apply to both The Zero Balance Project and RentHelpMN?

Property owners and managers and renters can only receive assistance from one program for the same months of assistance. If you have already submitted an application to RentHelpMN, please share your application status with your property owner/manager and do not submit materials to The Zero Balance Project. If you received an invitation from The Zero Balance Project from your landlord and you have not submitted a RentHelpMN application, you can submit an application in Zero Balance. For questions about RentHelpMN, call 211. For questions about The Zero Balance Project, email zerobalanceproject@housinglink.org.

I previously received assistance from The Zero Balance Project or from Hennepin County's March 2021 application that was paid directly to my landlord. Can I request RentHelpMN assistance if I still need help?

In all cases you can only receive 15 months of rental assistance total from all programs combined, which will expand to 18 total months soon. If you received assistance from The Zero Balance Project or Hennepin County's March 2021 application for 15 months or less, you may start a RentHelpMN application for the additional assistance you need. You will need to start a new application because your application cannot be transferred from one program to the other.

I previously received assistance from RentHelpMN. Can I request assistance from the Zero Balance Project if I still need help?

In all cases you can only receive 15 months of rental assistance total from both programs combined, which will expand to 18 total months soon. If you received assistance from RentHelpMN for 15 months or less, your landlord may start an application with the Zero Balance Project for the additional assistance you need. You will need to start a new application because your application cannot be transferred from one program to the other.

I haven't started an application yet. Which program is best for me, RentHelpMN or The Zero Balance Project?

For those seeking rental assistance in Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey counties who haven't applied for rental assistance from RentHelpMN, either program is available to you. For renters and property managers/owners who prefer the *renter* lead the application process, RentHelpMN may be the better option. For renters and property managers/owners who prefer the *property managers/owners* lead the application process, The Zero Balance Project may be the best choice.

Who can I talk to with questions about The Zero Balance Project or my Zero Balance Project application?

Questions regarding The Zero Balance Project should be directed to zerobalanceproject@housinglink.org. The Zero Balance Project is operated by the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul as well as Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey counties. It is a separate program from RentHelpMN. For more information about RentHelpMN, call 211.