



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

County of San Diego's 2021 Security Deposit Assistance Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1) What is the 2021 Security Deposit Assistance Program (SDAP)?

The County of San Diego's Security Deposit Assistance Program (SDAP) helps eligible County residents with a security deposit payment. The program provides one-time payment assistance for renters unable to pay for a security deposit through a security deposit voucher program. The security deposit cannot exceed two months' rent for a maximum award amount of \$7,000.

2) How do I submit an application for SDAP?

You may submit an application [online](#). If you do not have internet access and need assistance in completing an application, call (858) 694-4801 to be connected to a phone agent who will be able to assist you.

3) Do I need an email address to apply? What if I do not have an email address?

A valid email address is required to submit an online application. If you do not have one, you can create one to complete the application. The following are free email providers:

- Gmail
- Yahoo
- Microsoft Outlook

If you do not have an email address, you may contact (858)694-4801 for a phone agent to assist you with the online application.

4) What should I do if I have trouble logging in or applying online?

Step One: Create an account

Step Two: Confirm your registered email address before you log in and complete your application. Please check your email and click on the link in the registration email message you received to confirm your registered email address.

- If you cannot find the registration email that was sent to you, please check your junk or spam folder. If you still cannot find the registration email, click the "Resend Email Confirmation" link on the login page.

Step Three: Log in and complete your online application.

- If you successfully confirmed your email address, but still cannot log in, select the "Forgot your password?" link on the login page. Check your email and click on the link in the email message sent to you to open the webpage so you can create your new password to log in.

5) Will I need to provide supporting documents with my application?

It is optional to provide verifications at time of application, however it is highly encouraged that documents be provided with the application to ensure faster processing. If an application is selected for review, County staff will request any missing verifications.

6) How will I be notified if I have been selected?

All applicants will be notified if they have or have not been selected through email or mail (if email was not provided). Application status can be checked online at any point.

7) How much rental assistance can I qualify for?

The security deposit cannot exceed two months' rent for a maximum award amount of \$7,000.

8) Do I need to sign a lease to receive the assistance?

Yes, the rental period for the unit should not be less than six months.

9) Can I qualify for emergency rental assistance if I am receiving another form of rental subsidy, such as Section 8, rapid rehousing assistance, or rental assistance from non-profit agencies?

Households currently receiving rental subsidies such as Section 8, rapid rehousing assistance, or rental assistance from non-profit agencies may apply. The household must certify that the security deposit assistance requested does not duplicate any other security deposit assistance, including federal, state, or local assistance provided for the same costs. Duplication of assistance is subject to County verification.

10) What areas are covered by SDAP?

The County will serve individuals and families countywide.

Areas Served: HCDS will serve individuals and families in the cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista and the unincorporated areas of San Diego

11) How much time do I have to locate a unit?

The initial term of the voucher will be at least 60 calendar days. The voucher is valid for the period of time specified on the voucher. The County must receive the completed Security Deposit Assistance Packet prior to the expiration of the voucher term.

12) Can I request for an extension on the voucher?

The household may request a 30 calendar day extension if they have not located a unit. If an extension is granted, the voucher cannot go beyond 90 days. After 90 days the voucher is terminated. The household will need to reapply if they do not use the voucher within 90 days.

13) What are acceptable forms of verifications that should be submitted with my application?

- Verification of Identity
 - Household must provide a copy of a government issued ID.
- Jurisdiction (Verify that the unit is located in the County's jurisdiction)
 - Lease or other forms of rental agreement
- OR
- Rent ledger that shows unit address
- Income verification such as pay stubs for all household members working, unemployment verification, CalWORKs benefit letter, etc. should reflect a date of no earlier than the prior month of application submittal. SSI/SSA benefit letters dated January 1, 2021 will be accepted.

14) Will my landlord have to agree to participate in the program for me to receive the assistance?

Yes, your landlord will need to agree to participate in the program to receive the assistance.

15) If I am chosen to receive the one-time grant, am I obligated to pay it back?

A tenant is not required to pay back the subsidy, it is a grant.

16) When can I expect my application to be processed?

The application period will be open for two weeks and applications will be selected based on a random lottery. If funding permits, subsequent applications will be reviewed based on date and time of application.

If your application is selected, you will be notified by a County representative that your application is being reviewed. We may then request additional verifications and once those are provided the application will be evaluated. This process could take about one to two weeks.

Once the application is approved, a security deposit voucher will be issued to you.

17) How are applications selected?

The application period will be open for two weeks and applications will be selected based on a random lottery. If funding permits, subsequent applications will be reviewed based on date and time of application.