SECURITY DEPOSIT ASSISTANCE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q **Who is eligible for Security Deposit Assistance?**

A Tenants who:

- are Baltimore City residents
- have incomes at or below 80% of Area Median Income
- have experienced negative financial impact due to COVID-19

Household members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Household income limits	$54,950 or less	$62,800 or less	$70,650 or less	$78,500 or less	$84,800 or less	$91,100 or less	$97,350 or less	$103,650 or less

Q **How do I apply for Security Deposit Assistance?**

A **Please follow these steps:**

- Go to **www.bmorechildren.com/residents/#rent**
- Click the **Security Deposit Assistance button**
- This will take you to an online screening form; answer all questions
- Provide contact information for you and your landlord
- Click "submit"
- In 24 hours you will receive instructions to upload documents (responses to weekend submissions will take longer)

Q **What documents do I need to provide when I apply for Security Deposit Assistance?**

A As a tenant applicant, you must provide:

- A signed lease **OR** Letter of Intent to Lease from your landlord indicating:
  - ❑ lease period (must be at least 6 months)
  - ❑ rent amount
  - ❑ security deposit amount
- Proof of Baltimore City residency—MD state ID **OR** these ID options:
  - ❑ Driver's license, birth certificate, consular ID, passport, visa, Permanent Resident Card/Green Card company-issued ID, U.S. Military ID
- Proof of income at 80% or less of Area Median Income (AMI)—options:
  - ❑ pay stub, W-2, employer letter, benefit award letter (TANF, SSI, Disability)
  - ❑ **OR** self-attestation using a government benefit award letter dated after January 1, 2020 that verifies income status (TANF, WIC, SSI) **OR** the self-attestation form in the Security Deposit Assistance application
- Proof of negative economic impact from COVID-19 (e.g., lost wages or child care)—options: letter from employer, letter from child care provider/school **OR** unemployment benefit letter

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Q Does my landlord also need to provide documentation?

A Yes, once you upload the above documents, your landlord will receive an email request to provide the following documents:
- proof the unit is licensed—copy of license
- signed electronic funds transfer document
- voided check
- completed W9
- invoice for total security deposit amount due

Q Who receives Security Deposit Assistance payment, the tenant or the landlord?

A The city pays the security deposit directly to the landlord on behalf of the tenant.

Q How much Security Deposit Assistance can I get?

A The application is property- and rent amount-specific, so your payment will be in the amount of the security deposit required by your landlord—up to $1,800. If your security deposit is greater than $1,800, you must pay the difference (the amount above $1,800) to your landlord, and the invoice submitted by your landlord must show your payment before Security Deposit Assistance is provided.

Q Can I get Security Deposit Assistance more than once?

A No. Security Deposit Assistance is a one-time payment.

Q I applied for back-rent assistance. Can I still get Security Deposit Assistance?

A Yes. Security Deposit Assistance is a separate program.

Q Once I have submitted my application, how long will it take to receive my Security Deposit payment?

A Once your application is approved, it will take five to seven business days to process and issue the payment.

Questions? Email SecurityDeposit@baltimorecity.gov

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