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# City of Seattle extends eviction and utility moratorium into January 2022

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[Seattle](#) Mayor Jenny Durkan announced Tuesday that she will extend the city's eviction and utility moratorium through Jan. 15, 2022, marking the sixth extension of the moratorium during the [COVID-19](#) pandemic.

The new extension comes as an estimated [60,000 people in the Seattle area are behind on their rent](#), according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Emergency rental assistance in King County has been found to be lagging behind, and both tenants and landlords alike have demanded that the county speed up the payments.

A total of \$29,936,358 in rental assistance has been distributed as of Sept. 13, according to the [latest update](#) from the Department of Community & Human Services.





Under the extended order, people can be evicted on issues of health or safety, but not because they're unable to pay their rent. Renters also can't accrue late fees or other charges. Once the orders are lifted, people will still be expected to pay the rent they owe and can face eviction. The city also extended its moratorium on evictions for independently-owned businesses with 50 or fewer employees and nonprofits.

"Seattle continues to show the nation how to protect small businesses and residents by establishing and continuing one of the first in the nation moratoriums on evictions to keep families safe. Our early actions have and continue to keep people safe and housed," Durkan said in a [statement](#) Tuesday. "While we face the unexpected rise of the Delta variant, this next extension will ensure every level of government can provide rental assistance and housing support to tenants and landlords, which is critical to stabilizing the community as we reopen and recover."

The state's bridge proclamation, which also protects tenants from being evicted if they are actively seeking rental assistance, is also [set to expire at the end of the month](#) unless extended by Gov. Jay Inslee. Officials have urged residents who are behind on bills to talk with their utility

companies about a payment plan once the moratorium expires.

"This moratorium has provided hundreds of thousands of Washington families much-needed peace of mind during the pandemic, and now utility companies are eager and ready to help their customers make a plan that keeps their services on," Inslee said. "I urge people make that call as soon as they can. That call can give a family one less thing to worry about as fall and winter approaches."

While the federal eviction moratorium ended on July 31, several lawmakers introduced a bill on Tuesday to [reinstate a nationwide eviction moratorium](#) as COVID-19 levels continue to surge due to the more-transmissible delta variant and slowing vaccination rates.