

# KNOW YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS: CDC EVICTION MORATORIUM

African American Ambassador  
Housing Sub-Group  
Office of Mayor Jorge O. Elorza  
RI Center for Justice  
United Way of Rhode Island  
Tenant Network RI



MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE



CENTER FOR  
JUSTICE



United Way of Rhode Island

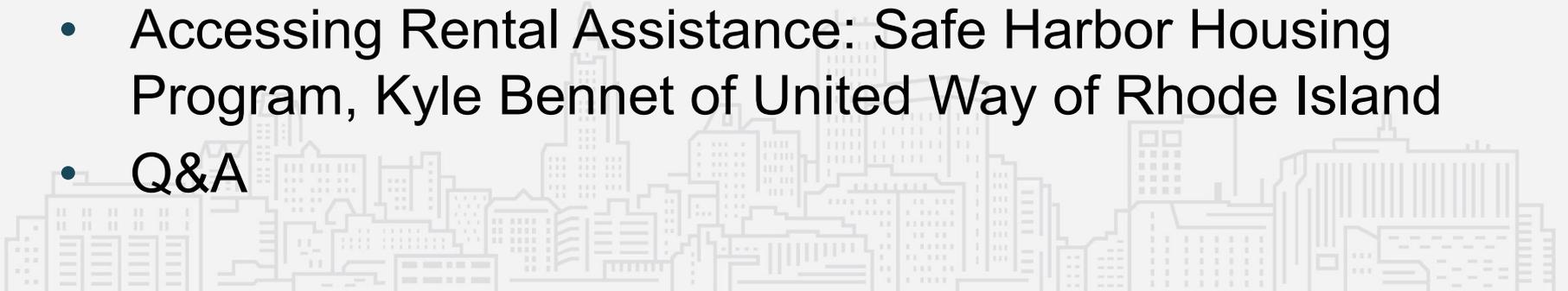


# Agenda

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- Introduction, Elaina Scorpio of Tenant Network RI
- Welcome and Opening Remarks from Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza
- Crisis in context: Historical Displacement in Providence, Dr. Dannie Ritchie of the African American Ambassador Housing Sub-Group
- CDC Eviction Moratorium: Preventing Eviction for Nonpayment, Jennifer Wood and Jordan Mickman of RI Center for Justice
- Accessing Rental Assistance: Safe Harbor Housing Program, Kyle Bennet of United Way of Rhode Island
- Q&A



# WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

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Mayor Jorge O. Elorza  
City of Providence



# CRISIS IN CONTEXT, HISTORICAL DISPLACEMENT IN PROVIDENCE



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Dr. Dannie Ritchie,  
African American Ambassador  
Housing Sub-Group



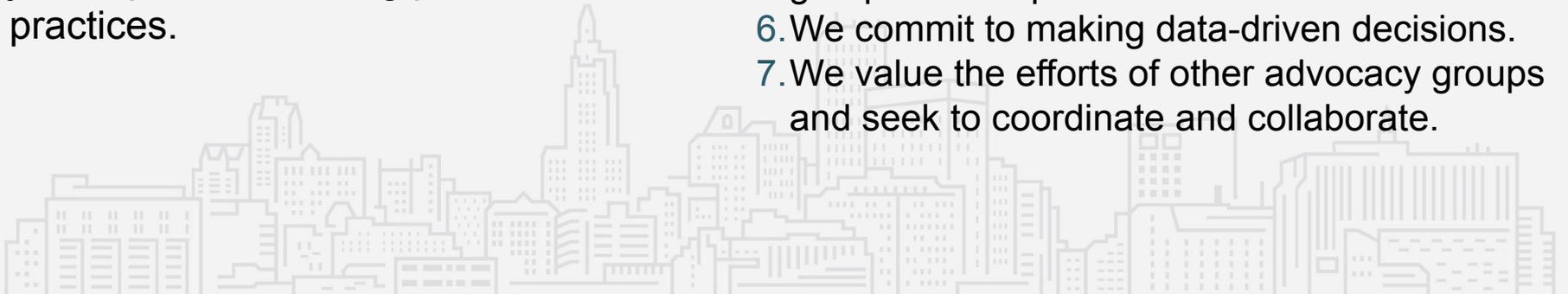
# AAAG Housing Group



**Our mission** is to engage in a truth-finding process that both gathers and disseminates information about the history of discriminatory housing practices in Providence, the continued imbalance of power between tenants, landlords, and homeowners, and the ways in which BIPOC have been disproportionately impacted by both historical and continuing predatory practices. This information will be used to advocate for and implement more just, equitable housing policies and practices.

## Our Values and Principles

1. We believe that housing is a human right. As such, housing must be affordable and accessible to all.
2. We commit to continuously centering the needs of BIPOC Providence residents. As such we believe that:
3. The cost and/or burden of a policy change should be borne by developers
4. As evidence and data are being gathered, the questions that continue to guide us should come from BIPOC residents
5. We strive to ensure discussions within the group and our partners remain action-oriented.
6. We commit to making data-driven decisions.
7. We value the efforts of other advocacy groups and seek to coordinate and collaborate.



# Context Resources and AAAG Involvement

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- [Timeline of Black Family Displacement in Providence's East Side](#)
- [Black Family Displacement on the East Side](#)
- [Providence Historical Aerial Viewer](#)
- [Get involved!](#)



# CDC EVICTION MORATORIUM: PREVENTING EVICTION FOR NONPAYMENT



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Jennifer Wood and Jordan Mickman,  
RI Center for Justice



# Who is eligible for protection?

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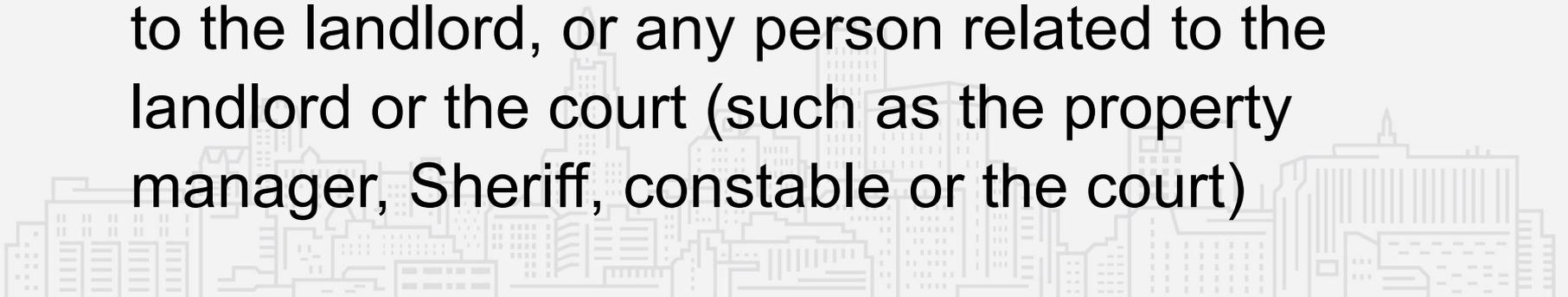
## Persons Covered by the Moratorium:

- Used best efforts to obtain all government assistance for rent and housing;
- Either expect to earn less than \$99,000 this year (2020) (\$198,000 if filing jointly) the same as the cut off for the “Stimulus” payment earlier this year
- Unable to pay full rent due to substantial loss of household income, loss of hours or wages, lay-offs, or extraordinary out-of-pocket expenses;
- Using best efforts to make full or partial rent payments;
- Likely to become homeless, need to move into homeless shelter, or need to double up with others because they have no other options

# How can I get protected?

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- Tenants must sign the CDC declaration. The declaration asks the questions about eligibility. The tenant is signing the form certifying under penalty of perjury that they meet the requirement for protection.
- Tenants must then provide the signed declaration to the landlord, or any person related to the landlord or the court (such as the property manager, Sheriff, constable or the court)



# What does the moratorium do?

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PREVENTS EVICTION FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

“Under this Order, a landlord, owner of a residential property, or other person with a legal right to pursue eviction or possessory action, shall not evict any covered person from any residential property in any jurisdiction to which this Order applies during the effective period of the Order.”

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-19654/p-12>



# Frequently Asked Questions

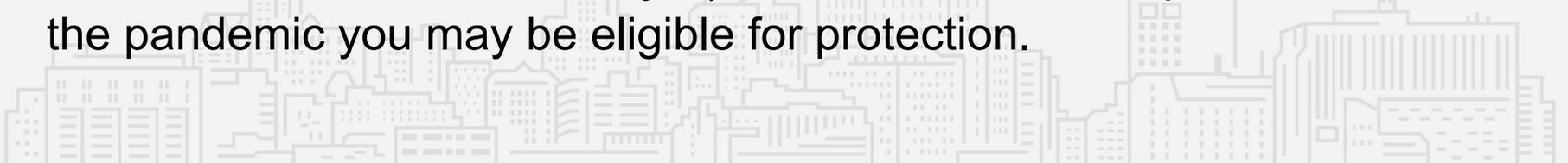
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## **Q: Can I still be evicted for reasons other than nonpayment?**

A: Yes, the moratorium does not cover evictions for reasons other than non-payment like staying beyond the term of your lease. If you are being threatened with eviction for other reasons get in touch with either R.I. Legal Services or the R.I. Center for Justice.

## **Q: Am I covered by the moratorium if I receive Social Security Benefits?**

A: Maybe. Although your Social Security income is not likely to change, if you have suffered other loss of income in your household (a household member lost their job) or have additional expenses due to the pandemic you may be eligible for protection.



# Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q: Will I be arrested if I sign the declaration but it turns out that I am not covered?**

A: All declarations should be signed truthfully and to the best of your knowledge. An action can be taken against you if you knowingly lie on the form.

**Q: Can I stop paying rent if I provide my landlord with a declaration?**

A: If you can pay even a portion of the rent, you should. It is one of the requirements to be eligible for the moratorium and you will have to pay any rent that is owed when the moratorium end. You should apply for rental assistance to Safe Harbor RI in the meantime so you can get help to pay the rent.



# Frequently Asked Questions

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**Q: Will I have to pay back the rent I did not pay during the moratorium?**

A: You will be responsible for all rent owed. If you owe rent when the moratorium ends you may be evicted depending on the other circumstances of your situation.

**Q: When does the moratorium end?**

A: Currently, the moratorium will end on December 31, 2020.



# Accessing Rental Assistance: Safe Harbor Housing Program

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Kyle Bennett,  
United Way of Rhode Island



# Questions and Discussion

- Please direct any specific legal questions regarding your personal situation to RI Center for Justice at **(401) 491-1101**
- Call 2-1-1 for more information on Safe Harbor Housing Program
- Slides and recording will be available at [tinyurl.com/pvdhousingguide](https://tinyurl.com/pvdhousingguide)

