

**Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness**

**Advocacy & Policy Update 9.11.2020**

***Make Good Trouble, Necessary Trouble***

**Maureen Howard, Senior Policy Analyst**

**Conference on Ending Homelessness:** Oct 7 & 8, 2020 Virtual. <https://www.wliha.org/conference> **Housing Washington:** Oct. 6, 2020 Virtual. <https://www.housingwa.org> Free

**Eviction Defense**

Most but not all tenants are covered by the State and Federal Eviction Moratoriums and by local ordinances. The State moratorium ends Oct. 15, 2020 and the Federal CDC moratorium ends Dec. 31, 2020.

**We need to**

- keep as many people in housing that is safe and appropriate as possible.
- encourage people NOT to self-evict unless they are going to better housing
- keep track of self-evictions, of any "legal" evictions
- report landlords/property managers threatening tenants in any way.
- be sure tenants to know their rights.
- monitor use of all rental assistance funds, especially CARES Relief Funds

In a perfect world, some entity would be responsible for collecting and updating all of the eviction-related information with both resources and monitoring in one place - and maybe they are and I just don't know which one or where to go - but it seems to me that each provider, each funder, each jurisdiction posts their own information. This is what I know as of Sept. 10.

**Standard Legal Resources for Tenants**

**Tacomaprobono Housing Justice** project, [hjp@tacomaprobono.org](mailto:hjp@tacomaprobono.org),  
Phone: 1-888-822-5134 Website: <http://www.tacomaprobono.org/hjp.html>

**Northwest Justice Project:** [www.nwjustice.org](http://www.nwjustice.org)  
CLEAR LINE 1-888-201-1014

**City of Tacoma Landlord-Tenant Program ChiQuata Elder** [celder@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:celder@cityoftacoma.org)  
[https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city\\_departments/equity\\_and\\_human\\_rights/landlord-tenant\\_program](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/equity_and_human_rights/landlord-tenant_program)

**Fair Housing Center of Washington:** [www.fhcwashington.org](http://www.fhcwashington.org)

**Washington State Attorney General:** [www.atg.wa.gov](http://www.atg.wa.gov) COVID Eviction Complaint Form:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/COVID19EvictionComplaintForm.aspx>

**New Legal Resource**

FREE 253 - a collaborative approach by the Fair Housing Center of Washington, Tacoma ProBono, and the Center for Dialog and Resolution. to assist renters and landlords. Free 253 facilitates creating a payment plan, using mediation if needed, and addressing any other concerns related to tenants' housing and safety. This program is FREE and serves residents of Pierce County. Landlords and Tenants can contact Tacomaprobono directly:

Email: [hjp@tacomaprobono.org](mailto:hjp@tacomaprobono.org)

**Possible New Legal Resource**

Pilot unlawful detainer mediation project. I have no updates. Original start date was 9/15/2020.

[maureenhowardconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:maureenhowardconsulting@gmail.com)  
Sept. 11, 2020

**Rent Assistance** - although Pierce County Human Services Public Portal is closed for September, individual grantee organizations are taking applications, the Veterans Portal is still open, and the City of Tacoma, City of Lakewood and other jurisdictions have open programs. Try 211.

**Utility Assistance** - MDC handles LIHEAP for City of Tacoma residents, **Pierce County Human Services** for everyone else in the county; each utility company appears to have its own program. Right now, you'll have to check with each. Try 211

**Advocates:**

**Tacoma Tenants Organizing Committee** [www.tacomatenants.org](http://www.tacomatenants.org)

**Tenants Union of Washington** [www.tenantsunion.org](http://www.tenantsunion.org)

**Washington Low Income Housing Alliance** [www.wliha.org](http://www.wliha.org)

Numerous self-help, grassroots groups on social media.

Many programs in the Homelessness Response System have housing navigators.

**We need: an open list of available apartments.**

**Pierce County Resources** ([www.pchomeless.org](http://www.pchomeless.org))

<https://www.piercecountyresources.com>

**Call 211 - Note: United Way of Pierce County** has no 211 website.

**News Tribune 9.10.2020 Is There a “loophole” in WA’s Eviction Moratorium?**

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/matt-driscoll/article245506485.html>

**National Housing Law Project and the National Low Income Housing Coalition**

[Overview of National Eviction Moratorium](#) and our [National Eviction Moratorium: FAQ for Renters](#).

**National Housing Law Project Protecting Renter and Homeowner Rights**

<https://www.nhlp.org/campaign/protecting-renter-and-homeowner-rights-during-our-national-health-crisis-2/>

**Fair Housing Center of Washington**

View a quick guide to the Washington State eviction moratorium [here](#).