

# Emergency Rental Assistance Program



Dear Bentonville Schools Family,

Please take a moment to review this important information regarding an opportunity that has become available to all Bentonville Schools staff members who live in Benton County.

A federal relief fund has been made available to all residents of Benton County that are in need of **rental assistance**. If you or someone in your household has been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. can show a loss of income, reduction in hours, medical expenses tied to COVID-19, etc.) and have a household income at 80% or lower of the Area Median Income (AMI)--roughly \$60,000 a year or less for a household of four--you may be eligible to apply. Rental assistance is available in the forms of rental arrears, rent payments, utility arrears, and utility payments connected to a rental unit.

Benton County has partnered with Excellerate Foundation and its Hark division, which, you will recall, also partners with us via its EAP+ program that I shared with you back in March. This emergency rental assistance program is an added benefit of EAP+ and will help our community members directly impacted by the pandemic.

To see if your household qualifies or to learn more, either call 2-1-1 or fill out the contact form on our dedicated Hark EAP+ page [www.harknwa.com/bentonvilleschools](http://www.harknwa.com/bentonvilleschools).

I am grateful for the work that you do each day and glad to have this resource from Hark at Excellerate Foundation to share with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Jones".

Dr. Debbie Jones  
Superintendent

