



CONTACT:
Pam Melton
Director of Political & External
Communications
919-995-9357
pmelton@ncrealtors.org

NC REALTORS® Supports Solutions to COVID-19 Rental Assistance Funding in HB 196

Raleigh, North Carolina (Date) – NC REALTORS® applauds state lawmakers for including much needed reforms to the distribution of COVID-19 rental relief funds. Many North Carolinian renters have fallen behind in their rent payments due to COVID-related economic issues. In turn, their housing providers have become financially strapped. All parties need to be made whole to avoid a future housing crisis.

In order to distribute the necessary COVID-19 rental relief funds, the state established the HOPE program in 2020. However, the program fell short of providing the necessary relief. As new 2021 funding is being made available, it is critical that changes be made to ensure that the HOPE program meets the objectives of the funds – to make everyone whole and keep people in housing.

The modifications to the program are simple yet necessary. As part of the new changes, the program will cover the full amount of rent due on delinquent payments, rather than arbitrary formula payments. To make the HOPE Program beneficial for everyone it will not exclude any eligible applicants, and it will allow for landlords to better assist their tenants by providing a way to allow landlords to apply. Finally, the program will establish a hotline to assist those interested in the program or those already participating in it.

Cathy Robertson, Chair of the NC REALTORS® Property Management Division expressed the frustration housing providers experienced with the HOPE Program. “COVID has created serious hardship in the rental housing market. The HOPE Program has been slow, onerous, and has still left many behind in their rent payments. The program needs to be better so we can achieve everyone’s goal - helping renters impacted by COVID stay in their homes.”

ABOUT NC REALTORS®

NC REALTORS® is a non-profit trade association, representing more than 52,000 members and 45 local associations throughout the state of North Carolina. Many of those members provide rental property management in each North Carolina community. NC REALTORS® serves to promote the success of its members and enhance the quality of life in North Carolina by promoting housing affordability and the protection of private property rights. Founded in 1921, the association is headquartered in Greensboro, with an additional office in Raleigh. For more information on the association, visit [ncrealtors.org](https://www.ncrealtors.org).