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UPDATE #35

**Update on Knox County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (“ERAP”)
Application System for Landlords**

Friends:

As explained in our last update, Knox County rolled out its application system for the Covid ERAP program on March 16, 2021. Since the application portal opened, we have received notification from the Knox County program director Jenny Holden that the landlord side of the application process is experiencing some glitches and that due to these issues, the system is unable to process landlord applications correctly. Please be assured that Ms. Holden and her team are working tirelessly to address and correct all issues that have arisen.

In order to assist Ms. Holden and her team in correcting these issues in a timely manner, we have been asked to advise all landlords to wait to submit their applications to the program. Knox County anticipates that the system will be fully functional and ready for landlord applications in the first full week of April beginning on April 5, 2021. Please note, federal funding for Knox County has increased from \$13 million to \$30 million. With the amount of funds available, delaying your application will not cause you to miss out on the money.

We are monitoring the situation closely, and when the system is ready for landlord applications, we will promptly send out an update. We know you are eager to get in line for assistance, but please be assured that at this point, plenty of funds remain to assist landlords and tenants in Knox County. We appreciate your patience and believe that once the system is up and running, it will be a great tool to assist you in recovering rent that has been impacted by the pandemic.

As a final note, it appears that the glitches on the landlord side of the system have not impacted a tenant’s ability to begin the application process, so you may continue to encourage your tenants to apply to the program in the meantime. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very Truly Yours,

Michael J. King