



IN SOLIDARITY WITH [CANCEL RENT CT](#)

(Call to Action directly adapted from Cancel Rent CT Toolkit)



CANCEL RENT CT: Connecticut Call to Stop All Evictions and Cancel Rent

GHIAA IS CALLING ON MEMBERS TO WRITE TO [AND CALL] YOUR LEGISLATORS USING THE TEMPLATES BELOW.

THE ISSUE:

What we are facing is more than a pandemic: COVID-19 is exacerbating the already existing housing crisis in Connecticut and catalyzing a global recession. It is impacting tenants, public housing residents, and homeowners across the State.

Although the Governor has put in place temporary rent measures, this does not address the fact that rent and mortgages are still due. Tenants will still be responsible for these payments, **at a time when working residents are losing jobs and wages in record numbers.** Even before this crisis, over 50% of renters across the state were cost-burdened, paying more than 30% of our income on housing costs. Connecticut leads the nation in income inequality, and this burden is disproportionately shouldered by Black and brown communities: nearly 60% of Black renters and 55% of Hispanic renters are cost-burdened compared to 43% of white renters.

COVID 19 is highlighting the [systemic social and economic barriers that communities of color and immigrant communities already face](#). This problem will not disappear once the threat of COVID-19 has passed. The housing crisis will only worsen as an economic recession ensues and it will [harm BIPOC communities](#) we have systematically made vulnerable through decades of racist policies and practices.

With schools and businesses closed indefinitely, many working people across Connecticut are struggling to cover increased costs for food, childcare, utilities, and basic necessities. The state and federal governments are offering generous loans and bailouts to businesses while neglecting to provide us with answers around how we will afford to live.

We want to keep ourselves and our communities safe, but working-class communities are being forced to choose between staying home and keeping a roof over our heads.

We are calling on Governor Lamont to:

- 1. Stop all evictions indefinitely!** The Governor has ordered a halt to the filing of most new evictions through July 1. However, there were thousands of cases pending when the Governor declared the public health emergency on March 11, 2020 and over 800 cases were filed since the Governor declared that state of emergency on March 11.

We need an Immediate Executive Order that:

- Extends the existing eviction moratorium for the duration of the crisis. This includes not only new filings, but all hearings and judicial actions on existing cases.
- Dismisses all eviction actions filed since March 11, 2020

- 2. Cancel rent NOW!** We need more than a temporary eviction moratorium. All rent payments should be canceled for April, May, June, and all months during the duration and recovery period of Governor Lamont's emergency order. The Governor must guarantee that no one will be evicted, lose their homes, or be saddled with unpayable debt after this pandemic. There are current relief measures providing mortgage forbearance for homeowners, but no meaningful rent relief for tenants.

We need an Immediate Executive Order that:

- Immediately cancels rent starting April 1 until at least 45 days after the declared state of emergency is lifted. This means forgiveness of rent and not deferment.
- Makes federal and state funds available to landlords to recover lost rental income.
- Prohibits late fees, eviction, and reports to credit bureaus for nonpayment of rent.
- Eliminates rent increases for five years.

All of these orders must be in place throughout the duration of the declared state of emergency and the entire recovery period.

These actions are necessary to remove the threat that those of us losing our jobs and support systems will also lose our homes.

Under almost all the proposals being discussed, tenants will still be responsible for all the rent they cannot pay during the crisis. Not banning landlords from extracting rents will

lead to massive rent debt, eviction, and homelessness. Nobody should profit from this crisis. Connecticut can't afford to have one more person on the street!

We need to get organized to prepare for the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis now. We can't afford to wait until people have run out of money. Governor Lamont Cancel Rent Now!

THE ACTION:

That's why we're asking you to:

1. Sign the [Cancel Rent petition to Governor Lamont](#) and share it on [social media](#).
2. Sign this [petition to the federal government](#) and share on social media
3. Call the **governor's office** and demand to Stop All Evictions and Foreclosures and Cancel Rent.
4. Urge your representatives to pressure Governor Lamont. [Find Your Legislators: [Quick Look-up Here](#)]

Sample Script:

"As a resident of Connecticut, I am reaching to urge Governor Lamont to **enact a new executive order immediately** extending the eviction moratorium through the end of the health crisis, dismissing all evictions filed since March 11, canceling rent during the pandemic, and creating a rent relief fund for landlords to recover lost income. With schools and businesses closed indefinitely, working people across the state have been struggling to cover increased costs for food, childcare, utilities and basic necessities. Connecticut residents are also losing jobs and wages in record numbers, and it could be years before we fully recover from this economic crisis. Although the Governor has put in place temporary rent deferment, this does not address the fact that tenants will still become saddled with unpayable debt and face the threat of eviction and homelessness. *Nobody should profit from this crisis, and Connecticut can't afford to have one more person on the street.*"

Write and call office of Governor Ned Lamont, State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 | Phone: 860-566-4840

**CONNECTICUT
CANCEL RENT
NOW!**

#CANCELRENT

- STOP ALL EVICTIONS & FORECLOSURES
- CANCEL RENT DURING THIS PANDEMIC & FREEZE RENT DURING RECOVERY PERIOD
- EMERGENCY RENT RELIEF FOR VULNERABLE LANDLORDS TO RECOVER LOST INCOME

WHO TO CONTACT:

**TELL GOVERNOR LAMONT TO
#CANCELRENT**

EMAIL

GOVERNOR.LAMONT@CT.GOV

PHONE:

(860)-524-7348

TWITTER:

@GOVNEDLAMONT

I am contacting you to urge Governor Ned Lamont to Cancel Rent in Connecticut! We need an Immediate Executive Order that:

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This is important because:

- Tenants will see immediate relief, instead of having to wait until it's too late.
- Cancelling rent will take the burden off tenants by placing the responsibility on landlords to apply for relief.
- Cancelling rent will provide relief to undocumented residents, who are facing unprecedented job loss but are left out of COVID-19 relief benefits.
- People already can't pay their rent. Cancelling rent will help to prevent a state economic crisis by providing necessary relief to both tenants and landlords.

TELL MATTHEW RITTER TO URGE GOVERNOR LAMONT TO #CANCELRENT

POSITION:

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER

EMAIL:

MATTHEW.RITTER@CGA.CT.GOV

TELEPHONE:

(860)-240-8585

TWITTER:

@CTHOUSEDEMS



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TELL BRANDON MCGEE TO URGE GOVERNOR LAMONT TO #CANCELRENT

POSITION: CT HOUSING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR
EMAIL: BRANDON.MCGEE@CGA.CT.GOV
TELEPHONE: (860) 240-8585
TWITTER: @REPBMCREE

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