

## Sandy rental assistance program widens eligibility

Michael Feely | Posted: Friday, September 11, 2015 9:21 am

BRIGANTINE— New Jersey’s Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency recently announced that its rental assistance program has adopted less stringent requirements for qualification.

RAP was designed to aid Hurricane Sandy-affected homeowners, according to the agency, and to qualify, homeowners must be applicants with grant agreements.

Rental Assistance applicants are no longer required to have outstanding mortgages on their primary residence to qualify, according to a press release.

The agency is reaching out to applicants ruled ineligible because of the mortgage requirement, encouraging them to modify their applications.

Applicants must be in the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation Program and the Low-to-Moderate Income Homeowners Rebuilding Program who are paying rent because they are displaced by Sandy damage or construction.

“As far as impact on Brigantine residents,” Charlie Miller of BrigStrong said, “I think there is a significant impact whereas many residents have previously used the Supplemental Rental Assistance Program to pay their mortgages and utility bills because they didn’t think there would be any rental assistance dollars left, when it came time for them to raise their homes - which was how it looked before the RAP program obtained an additional \$10 million in funding, which is expected to last through next year. These homeowners should be aware of a potential duplication of benefits issue, if they apply for RAP.”

For more information and an application, see [njhousing.gov/homeownership/owners/ssbg](http://njhousing.gov/homeownership/owners/ssbg) or call 1-800-NJHOUSE.



Brigantine Beach