



equity
arcata

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An Open Letter to Landlords & Property Managers,

equity arcata is a community organization whose purpose is to create a welcoming, safe and racially equitable community, and our Housing Working Group is busy creating strategies to help address housing equity needs in our community.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, times are uncertain, and people are scared. With stay at home orders in place, everyone is adjusting to a new reality, which has shed light on several inequities in our community.

Many community members have transitioned to working from home, are caring for children or parents full time and are struggling to maintain income to meet their needs. We don't believe any of us anticipated coping with this new reality.

How can those currently without income afford their basic needs and adhere to state and county orders to stay at home? While some are able to work from home and others retain essential employment in high-risk jobs, many have lost jobs or have had drastically cut hours as businesses close or struggle to adapt. For people living paycheck to paycheck, this is a devastating addition to the anxiety induced by COVID-19.

There is a statewide moratorium on evictions, and Arcata's local restrictions on evictions have been reinforced by County officials and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office who have publicly stated they will not be enforcing evictions while we shelter in place. Foreclosures, in relation to COVID-19, have been suspended, and many lenders are working with their clients to find solutions on mortgage payments to help homeowners, like yourself.

equity arcata's Housing Working Group stands ready to assist you in communicating and sharing local resources with your tenants. We have surveyed and learned of proactive steps already happening in Arcata.

To ensure that you retain good renters, and that tenants can be assured housing to safely shelter in place, we encourage you to take the following best practices into consideration:

- Reach out to your tenants. Check on their well-being.
- Have your tenants been exposed or are they experiencing symptoms of COVID-19? Do they have access to medical care?
- Keep a file of each tenant's current situation and note the ways you can assist.
- We have seen many landlords offer partial or full rent waivers to bridge this difficult time. If you have the means to waive even one rent payment to a tenant impacted by COVID-19, it could help them exponentially.

There are many resources out there to offer you and your tenants support. If you need assistance connecting your tenants to services regarding food insecurity, childcare for essential workers, tenant protection programs, etc. we'd love to help.

You can reach us by email at equityarcata@gmail.com or by calling 707-822-5953. Our members are here for you and your tenants.

Sincerely,

equity arcata's Housing Working Group

"creating a racially equitable arcata"