

## **FRAUD WARNING!**

The purpose of the Monroe County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is to help tenants who are experiencing housing instability with rent and utility assistance as they recover from the disruption and loss during the COVID pandemic. The Monroe County Team, along with partner agencies, seeks to serve as many qualified applicants as feasible with the limited funds on hand.

Fraud delays our ability to serve people in need. If we identify any information that indicates a pattern of fraud, waste and/or abuse, we will reject the application. We will send you a notice detailing the discrepancies and giving you an opportunity to update your data and documentation to remedy the issues. If your updated data and documentation address the discrepancies, we will proceed with processing your application.

Fraud with ERA is both a state and federal offense. If we identify fraudulent behavior, we will notify the Monroe County District Attorney, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, US Treasury and/or Department of Homeland Security, as appropriate, for investigation and if necessary, prosecution of criminal behavior.

Monroe County may pursue legal avenues, which could result in fines and jail. Monroe County will make all documentation and communication records available to law enforcement.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We understand that you may want to submit your documentation as quickly as possible in order to speed aid. However, misstatements or incompleteness of documentation could be interpreted as fraud and delay your application further.