



Virginia Rent Relief Program

Rent Relief Program Informational Session

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Virginia Rent Relief Program – The Basics

- The Virginia Rent Relief Program (RRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the Commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic
- This program has two doors of entry, one for landlords and one for tenants
- The same information is required of both parties, regardless of where the RRP application is initiated
- RRP is offered to tenants and landlords statewide, with two exceptions:
 - Chesterfield and Fairfax Counties have elected to administer rent relief programs at the local level as allowed by Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance program
 - Applicants are referred to these local programs for assistance and contact information for those programs is provided on all RRP websites

Two Doors, One Program

- Tenants can apply for rent relief through the RRP Support Center online or by telephone
 - Online: applications.deval.us
 - Telephone: 703-962-1884
- Landlords can apply for rent relief on behalf of tenants through Virginia Housing's online portal:
 - www.VirginiaHousing.com/RentRelief

RRP Tenant Eligibility

Three core eligibility requirements of the program:

1. Household's current gross income must be at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI)
2. Household's rent cannot exceed 150% of Fair Market Rent (FMR)
3. Demonstrated inability (self-certification) to make rent payments due to COVID-19

Required Documentation

1. Rental Agreement (valid lease or alternative lease documentation) which must include:
 - Tenant and Landlord's full names
 - Monthly rent amount
 - What is included in the monthly rent (e.g., utilities, Internet, etc.)
 - Term of the lease (i.e., what month and year does the agreement begin and end)
2. Tenant/Landlord Ledger
3. Tenant Income Documentation
4. Landlord's Virginia W-9
5. RRP Landlord/Tenant Agreement

Changes & Clarifications to RRP Guidelines

- Trusted third parties can now assist tenants and landlords with completing their applications and receive updates on the application status
- ERA dollars now allow us to pay three months prospective rent for eligible tenants
- Landlords and tenants can receive rent relief for no more than 15 months total, with reverification every three months
- Tenants do not need to be in arrears in order to receive assistance
- Individuals who receive Unemployment Insurance benefits do not need to attest to a COVID related negative financial impact
 - Total household gross monthly income still cannot exceed 80% AMI
 - Monthly rent must still be at or below 150% of FMR

Other Important RRP Updates & Reminders

- Average payment amount is increasing
 - This is due to the length of time tenants have been in arrears and the fact that three prospective months are now automatically included for all eligible tenants
- Households of three or less who access TANF, WIC, SNAP or LIHEAP do not need to provide additional income documentation
- Households receiving a housing subsidy are eligible for RRP assistance
 - However RRP can only pay for the tenant's portion of their arrears and the current month – not the prospective three months
 - These households are also required to complete an income recertification with their housing provider before assistance can be provided
- The RRP Support Center and Virginia Housing are hiring additional staff
 - This has contributed to the increased rate of spending – now more than \$10 million/week

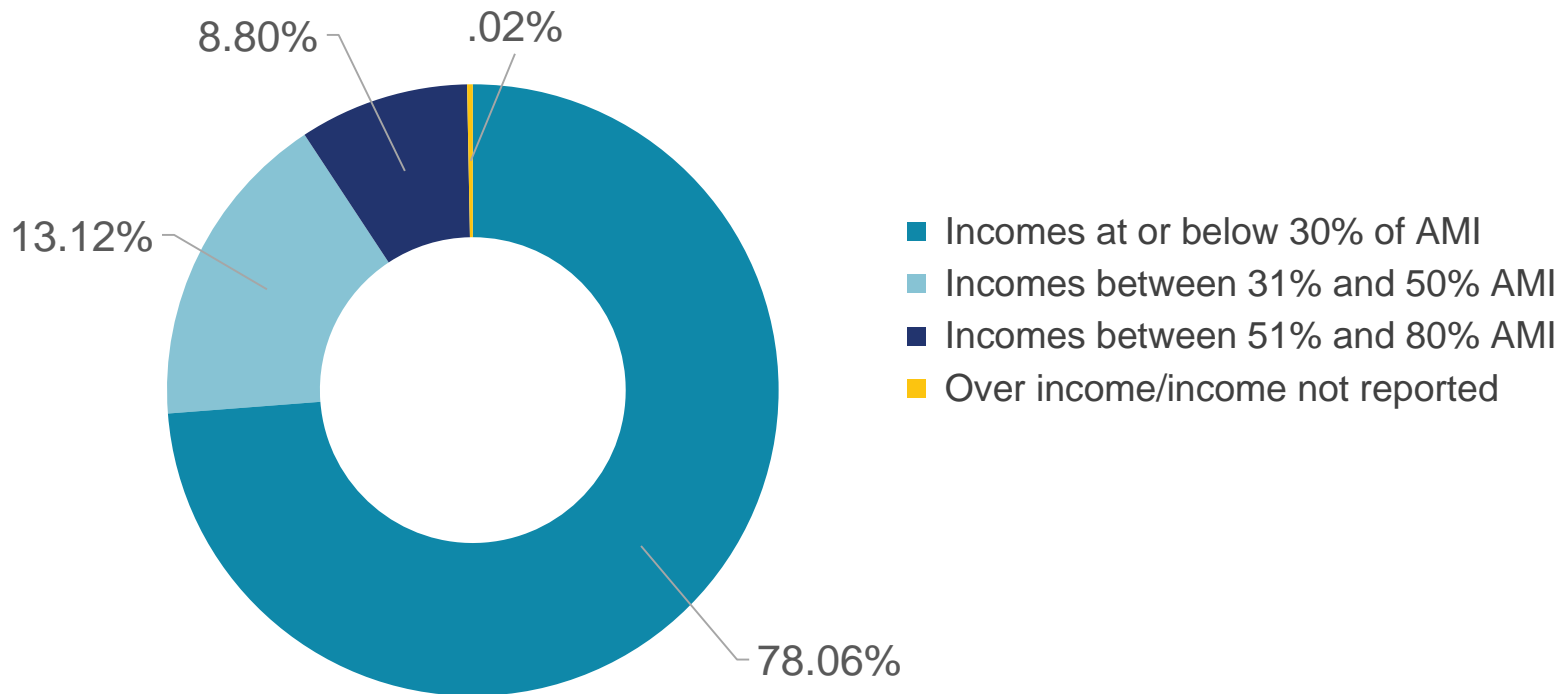
RRP Results as of May 5, 2021

PROGRAM SUMMARY

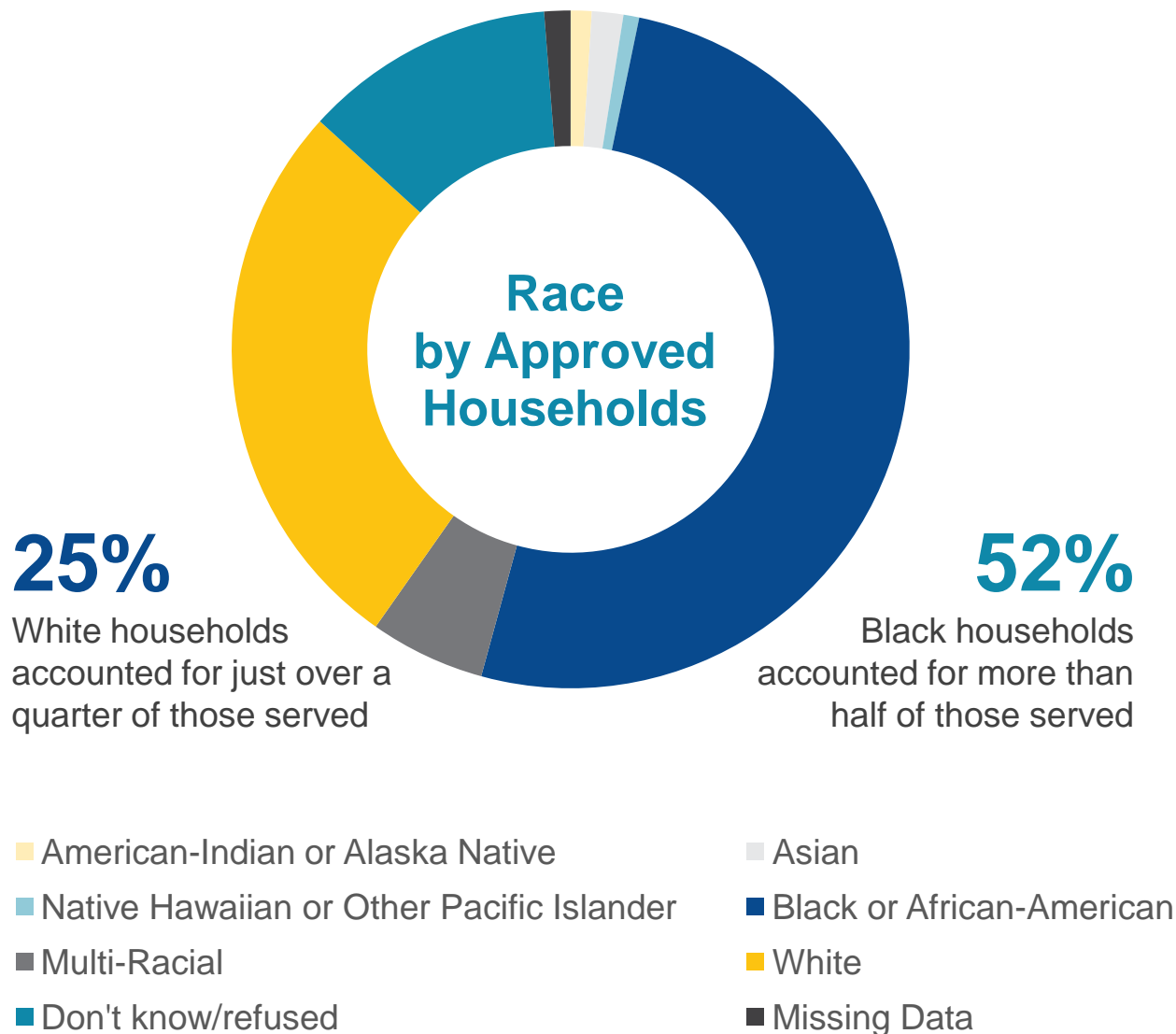
Total Unique Households Approved Since July 2020	35,596
Total Amount Disbursed Since July 2020	\$ 200.5 Million
Average Rent Relief Payment	\$5,633

RRP Households by Income

- Since July 2020, RRP has prevented more than 35,500 evictions – making landlords whole and keeping low to moderate income Virginians housed
- The household's total gross income must be equal to or less than 80% of area mean income to qualify. 78% of those approved had average median incomes below 30%



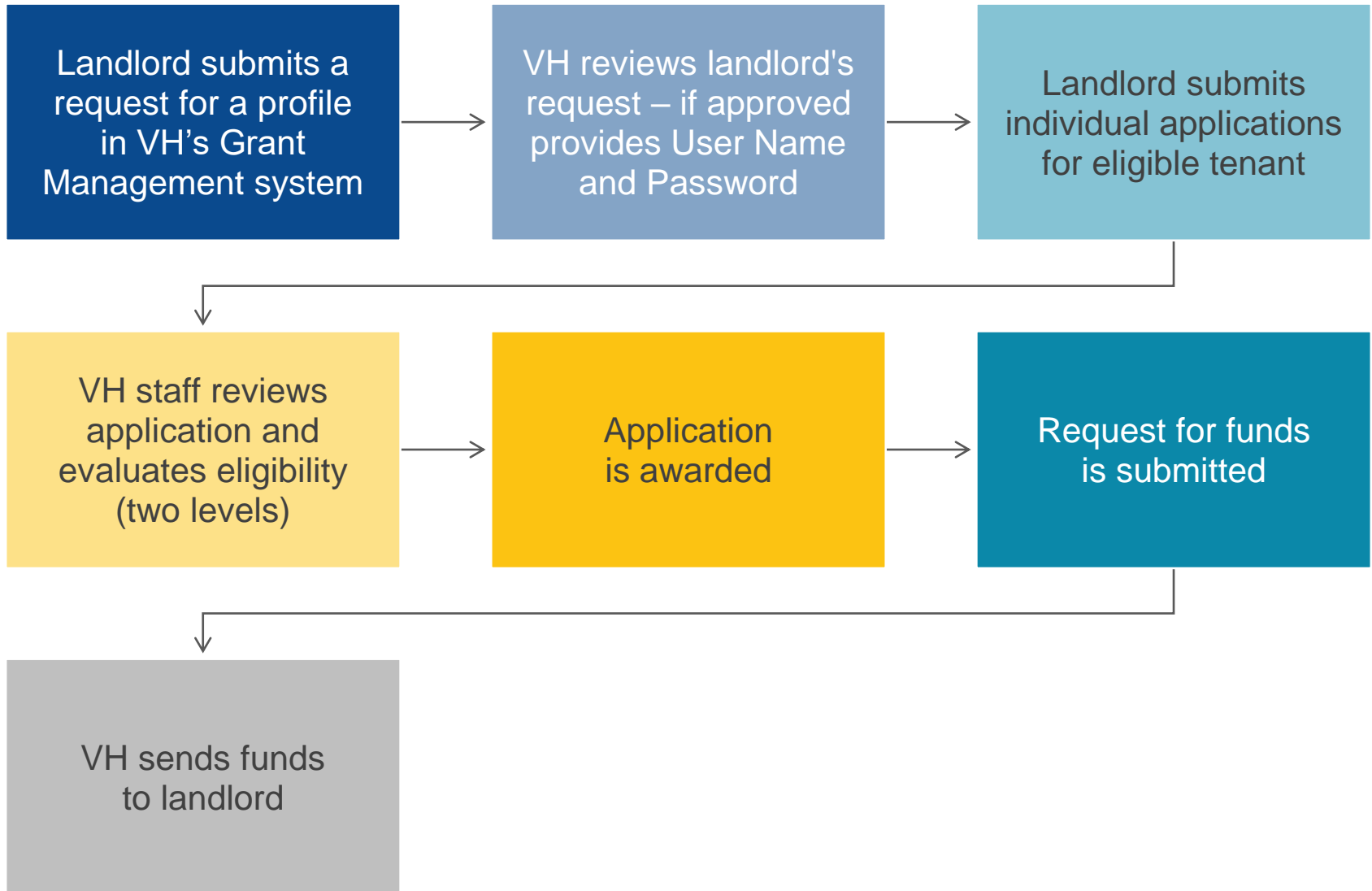
Households by Race



Useful RRP Links

- FAQs for Tenants: <https://dhcd.virginia.gov/rrp-tenant-faqs>
- FAQs for Landlords: <https://dhcd.virginia.gov/rrp-landlord-faqs>
- RRP Eligibility Self-Assessment: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/eligibility

Landlord Application Process: How it Works

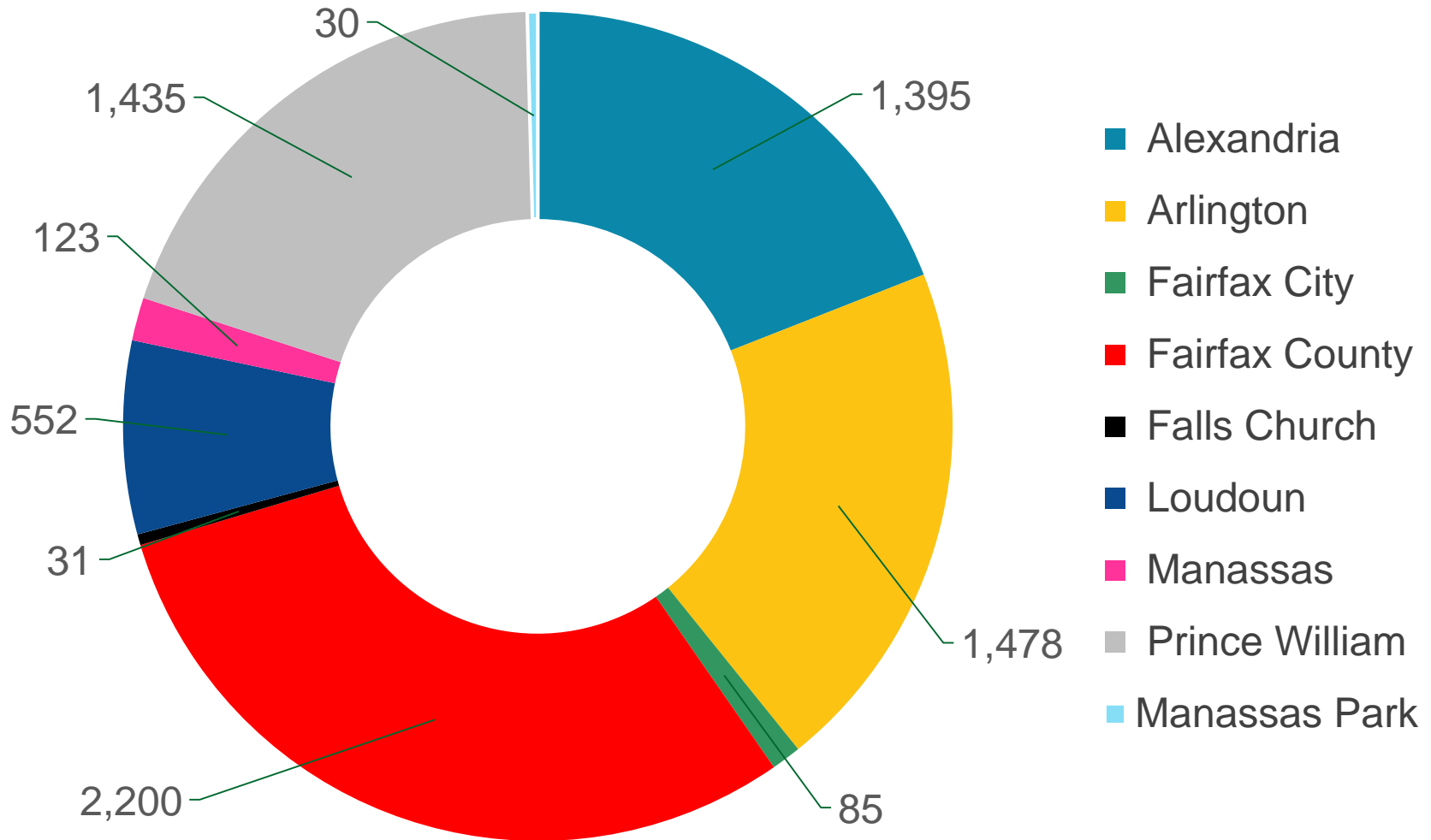


Final Points for Landlords

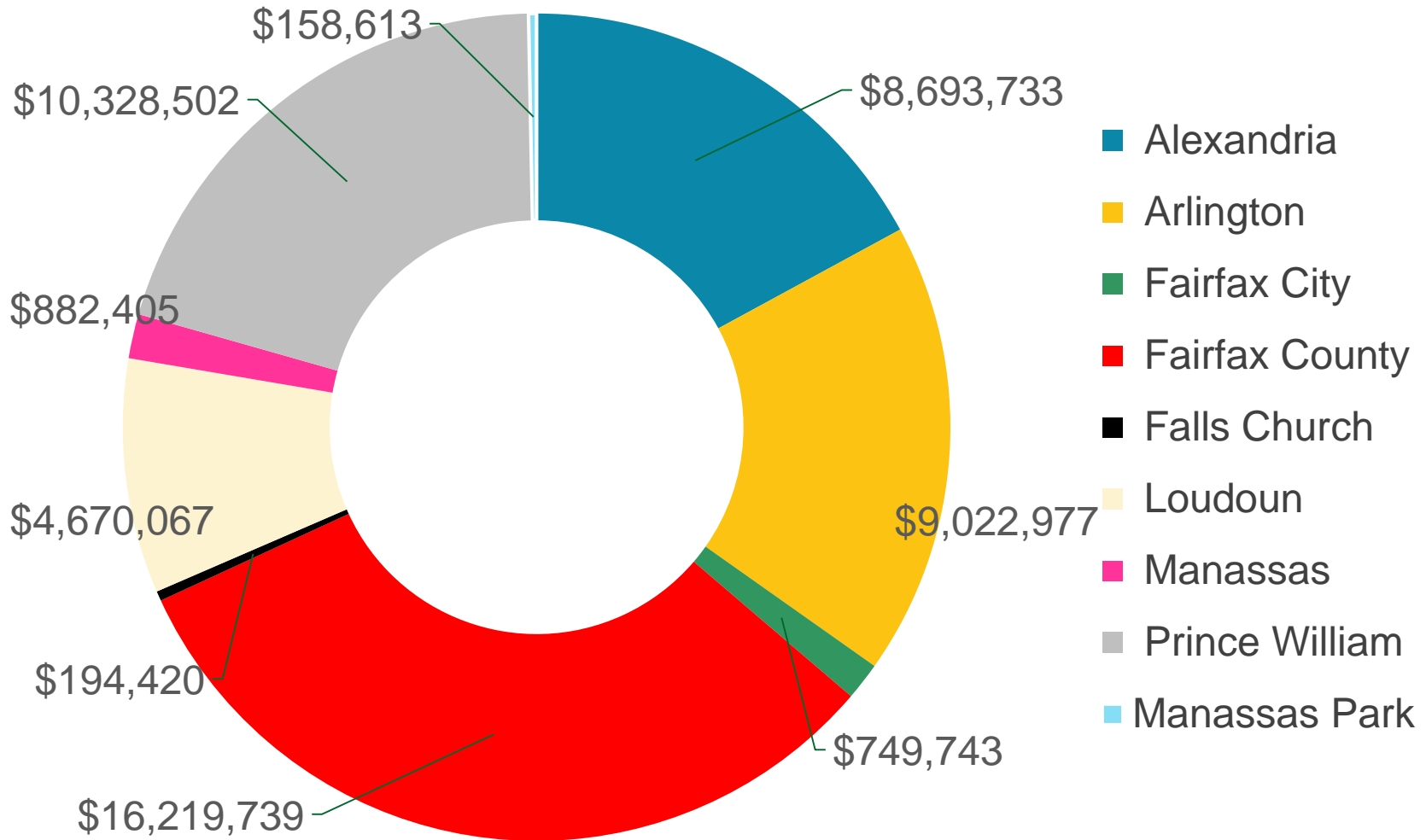
- [Download the User Guide](#)
- Read, take your time with the User Guide
- Follow the Instructions in the User Guide
- We have a User Guide
- Repeat

Questions? Email RentRelief@VirginiaHousing.com

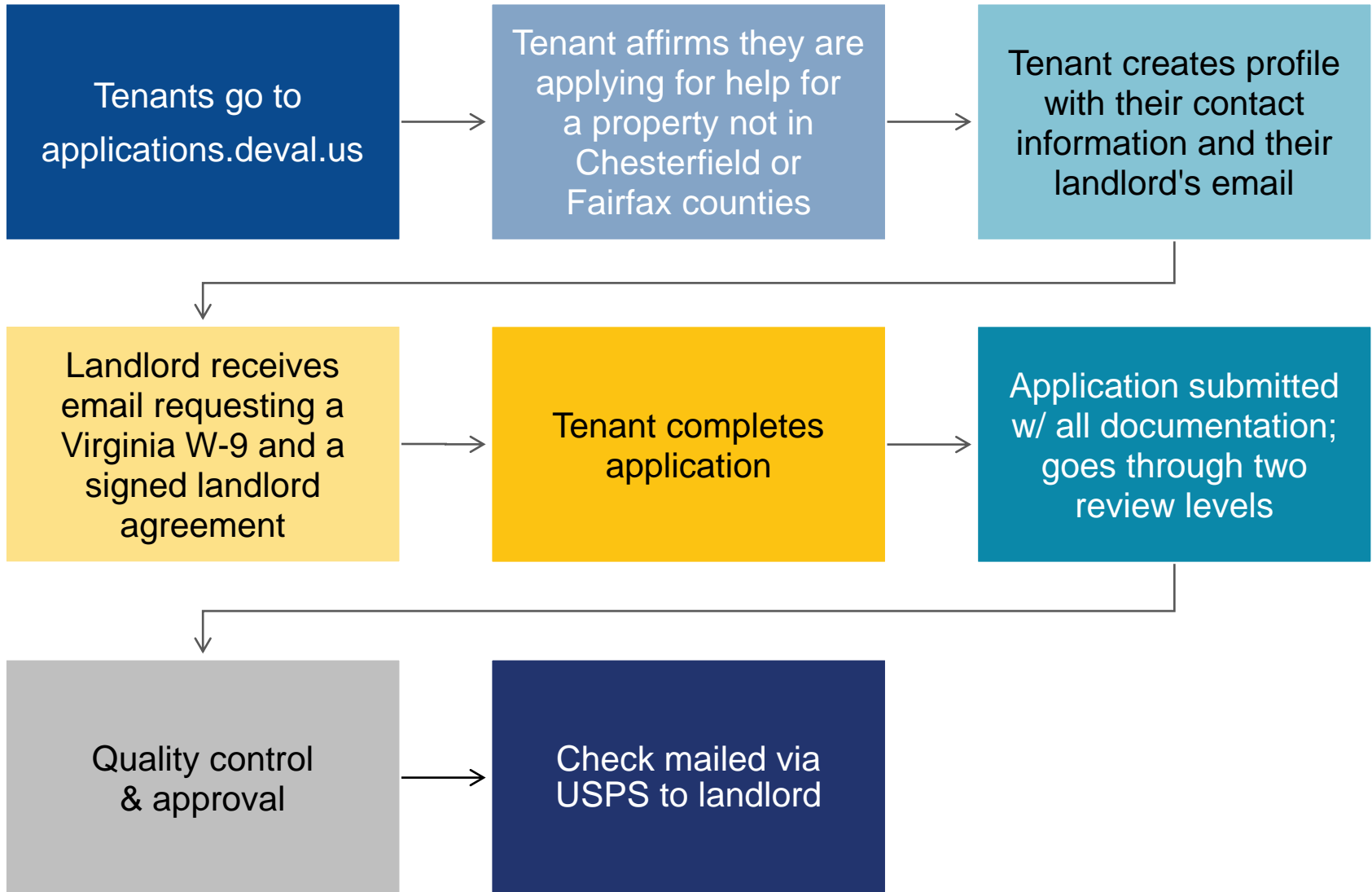
RRP Applications by (Northern VA)



RRP Expenditures by Locality (Northern VA)



Tenant Application Process: How it Works



Outreach and Engagement

- **Outreach Goal:** to double-down on outreach within rural area, ESL communities, small landlords, communities of color
- **Strategies**
 - [Marketing Toolkit](#) for partners
 - [Marketing Flyer](#) in seven languages
 - RRP Outreach and Engagement Grant
 - Training third parties to assist with application process
- **We need your help!**

Next New Funding Tranche

- **American Recovery Plan Act**

- ERA 2.0 – **estimated** \$450 million
 - Deadline to spend is September 30, 2025
- Homeowner Assistance (Mortgage Relief)
 - More info to come

Contact Information

General RRP Inquiries:

rrp@dhcd.virginia.gov

Virginia Housing Inquiries:

RentRelief@VirginiaHousing.com

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Questions?