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| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Samantha Puntenney  [spuntenney@hopesource.us](mailto:spuntenney@hopesource.us)  (509) 925-1448 |
| HOPESOURCE ASSISTS YOUNG RENTERS WITH EVICTION PREVENTION PROGRAM  The loss of a job can result in a person struggling to pay rent and facing eviction. HopeSource is ready to help with a program designed to prevent homelessness due to COVID-19 impacts.  An Eviction Rent Assistance Program is available now to Grant and Adams County residents, age 18-24, who need financial help to remain in their current home.  The program is funded by the federal CARES Act through the Washington State Department of Commerce. More than $110,000 will be available for residents in these two counties.  To qualify for this program, renters must have income that is at or below 50% of the Area Medium Income. For example, a household of two earning $2,500 or less a month could potentially qualify for assistance. The applicants must meet other criteria as well, such as having unpaid rent since March 1.  Keeping people safely housed and preventing homelessness is a core mission of HopeSource, said Susan Grindle, CEO of the community action agency serving Central Washington.  “People most impacted by disruptions in employment and other crises are often younger,” Grindle said. “They have fewer resources to fall back on and fewer support systems to help them through hard times. When any segment of our community suffers, the whole community suffers.”  People can apply for the program at [www.hopesource.us](http://www.hopesource.us). Choose the round “Need Help?” button and specify Housing/Rent Assistance on the application. You can also call (509) 707-0179.  Renters older than age 24 are encouraged to seek services through the Housing Authority of Grant County. |
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