**Brief of Governor Roy Coopers**

**Executive Order 171, October 28, 2020 and**

**NC Housing Opportunities and Preventions of Evictions Program (HOPE)**

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Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No. 171 to strengthen eviction protections to help North Carolina renters stay in their homes. With COVID-19 case counts increasing and many people continuing to work and learn remotely, preventing evictions is critical to the state’s fight against this virus. This order supplements the existing NC HOPE initiative started two weeks ago that pays landlords and utilities directly to keep people in their homes with the lights on.

[Executive Order No. 171](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001K9rkb7U8iRJOPN5izQyxdkLCGbVleY9P8SRpWZ3iQfU9j4z4rkdvNW42JUdECIj8sDLlb6ckGfHMSmkEnSNM6RMY96lMOnDYxYaOVR7ZYpxZpHhBJhfornacU-rXm2LVqaiqTNMdjM3h8TzLQkO70nplnDd64QEbisrqJtRRBIN2_7u1FzLytaqLZ7_RzseT9TBhjEXms1ifkyhplm7_or1KG3eD24t59T_YEP-HaKON9t8-fBD4KN4vV8OEGW8S&c=_zjAa4MDysjItuvs9h_y95sU0WxzXIp3H7reHps7DDmYfS4Wd8PWxA==&ch=tDcMMVbLAgHpnjvO2VD9oZNa9m-nLiXOzHyVOmBNSqKJWdG59pQ8sQ==) requires landlords to make residential tenants aware of their rights under the CDC Order. For eviction actions commencing after Executive Order No. 171, landlords must give residents the option to fill out a declaration form before starting any eviction action. The Order also sets forth procedures to ensure protection for residential tenants once they provide the required declaration form to the court or to the landlord.

Two weeks ago, Governor Cooper launched the $117 million NC HOPE program that provides assistance to eligible low-and-moderate income renters experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic by making direct payments to landlords and utility companies. This program has received 22,800 eligible applications as of today. Given the demand for assistance shown over the last two weeks, the state will continue working to boost the HOPE program so it can help more North Carolinians make ends meet.

People can apply for help by calling 2-1-1 or going to [nc211.org/hope](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001NsqwpbdtHkPrYGygC9EygKTzTY2KDdpOrBezOvxuzX36bnVo9xEYVwXMc9JftGf3Y-6qsbc1Z0PEXOIFT68aqsrVaQgCaHnml-rdKs8_syVRRntzQFvfMYz5fT_GtqLzptUFPWrVeFxtk3wushwhsUAX04ByIjYlLJSCC22U7-i39I0Re6q7nwTtBV5gkflLx7RM38Mc8PyYeLmKcwxmlYK1-8CLM0BRXe4WQRjs0K3TmxemfCmX98o60-0mHjMMVlVvXbt2MBZfqPiQpgd4THHkzTbwQ43Cfi1YD7oGNhXbDavnMlIWKsRxNP9zQXX5nYSJudMCu1zetaDZzPh-w3TVYm9KHOGvwx-_lf2rJ78F5nNPSzLC9NekJYRyVmLL2DjJvMcuCKKkHweSvNs0evH5x2Z9K-8Pt6ewM2iVTgnm2bVyEi0cEX2ggEd7ixh8sJnHUW36hJZzjdF_1-u0YR8ZKrjhwbALhrKk3F9PYHQ_kK1IIFAiUczP1cbTaMUCtgGh1iuDVApCkEWA3fgw46MsQQWjxLQGNG1xv5A_i1j_cGc6VIhCgc2pHn75y-MymRtmxyTOQ9u-uCQPrNr4Fyy5r4mXvSVu7i_nNxvrdWBy69HX3wYnV-LDRcimYIDF0Iw7nl23FDvbUB-5i9VsOlp3RWggHkdIEcQASzkuMlN4tozIpnS3PMLIICt13BoUtGigXJFXUg4pIrnipWfcUwcMOv8R5d6PdPzB9_apqYPLXmZ_a-XPthzhqdVZfUrafLDgNG00fIvZtaTaG1eW07Hv4EHSPXOrDfIG3UrDYB-F9ZsoShgQQIgo32f_QcMQksisN85uTt8KJnkSi_fMnIBZDzk1smeLVOIhXElrnjZsWrjOR5yBXN7m-7vru9HdlA1PCCaB60qW04WexuIke-UNSzFnzzNVKSsENWDkVGa1ETCZjkpMew8l8DgsvRGjKHppVKzQttaJ_S89Rih_-1TcfDyN6ssuwL8pRTUqk3kZTcPXUvQ2_yMP2b3nfwme1oAEEUOmxlydsS1dgmfitRMHoNk5KjRa&c=cqoSjABzsKO7rqbcGMK_antjAafTKYRX9HY4TgS67WYAjFODdeCGfg==&ch=Yn5DfTS7q8PQnpafvaacP_UA7OML13bP0bTAjM6PYVrSYJsngA5Xyg==). In addition, to help ease housing concerns, North Carolina is funding the Back@Home program, which helps families experiencing homelessness and provides financial relief to some landlords whose tenants are at risk of homelessness.