



SOLITA'S HOUSE

Rental Security/Utility Deposit Assistance FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is RSUDA?

Solita's House, Inc. provides financial assistance for rental security deposits and utility deposits as part of our rental counseling program and in partnership with the City of Tampa/ State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP).

To be eligible for RSUDA, individuals and families must meet the following qualifying criteria:

- ◆ Participants must attend Solita's House financial capability workshop in order to receive assistance. Other workshops not permitted. Workshops are scheduled virtually and held on Thursday twice a month from 12pm to 4pm.
- ◆ Rental unit must be in City of Tampa limits
- ◆ Mobile homes are not eligible
- ◆ Applicants must be at or below 80% AMI (determined during mandatory housing counseling session)
- ◆ Rental units must pass HQS inspection. Program covers the cost of 2 inspections per unit and a maximum of 4 inspections per participant.
- ◆ Roommate situations are permitted
- ◆ Lease term must be for at least one year
- ◆ Participant must be able to pay monthly rent
- ◆ Monthly rent may not exceed rent limit amount (determined during mandatory housing counseling session)
- ◆ Participant must attend a minimum of one one-on-one rental counseling appointment
- ◆ Credit report or score is not a factor for eligibility, however, it could affect your rental housing search.
- ◆ Program does not cover application fees associated with units- client is responsible for paying application fees.
- ◆ Utility deposit assistance is only for TECO electric, gas and/or water. Cable, internet, cell phone deposits are not covered under program guidelines.
- ◆ This program does not pay for delinquent rent.

How does the payment process work?

For qualified recipients, Solita's House will remit rent payments directly to landlords, and utility payments directly to TECO and the City of Tampa, on behalf of eligible clients. We can provide landlords a promise to pay and once all documents are received payment can be sent within 5-10 days.

How much do recipients receive?

Amounts will be determined based on need during housing counseling appointment. Restrictions apply.

How do I apply?

Visit <https://bit.ly/3i20qSY> to begin the process and to register for the Financial Capability workshop.

Your rental counseling appointment will be scheduled AFTER successfully completing the Financial Capability workshop

Can I apply for federal assistance (Section 8, Housing Choice Voucher, or Public Housing) as well as the RSUDA Program?

Yes. It is encouraged & we will help navigate that process for you.

Do I need to be a resident of the City of Tampa to receive RSUDA assistance?

No, but the rental unit you find must be located in the City of Tampa limits

How do you decide who gets money?

Clients are responsible for submitting all required documents and attending the Financial Capability workshop and the one-on-one counseling session. The program coordinator will then review completed files to determine eligibility. After all documents have been provided participants will receive a rental voucher and instructions for when you locate a rental unit within 7 business days.

What if I attend the workshop and don't qualify for RSUDA?

There may be other Solita's House programs or resources available. These programs will be discussed in the workshop and also during your one-on-one housing counseling session.

What if I need assistance finding a unit?

We have a Landlord Liaison that can assist you with locating a rental unit. There is no cost for this service.

What if I've already attended the financial capability workshop or if I'm interested in the funding but do not need the assistance immediately?

The Solita's House Financial Capability workshop certificates are good for one year. You will receive your certificate AFTER you attend your housing counseling session.

Who keeps the deposit after my lease expires?

Deposits are retained by clients upon expiration/termination of lease.

Case Managers and other Social Service agencies can send a client referral by visiting: <https://bit.ly/3fpRmXb> and completing a partner referral form.