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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CityServe Launches Eviction Prevention Starting Point in Tulare County**

To guide renters and landlords through CA COVID-19 Rent Relief

**BAKERSFIELD, CA, March 15, 2021**—Cityserve announced today it has launched [Eviction Prevention Starting Point](#), a program to get renters and landlords started on the path of financial assistance through the [CA COVID-19 Rent Relief](#) program. Individuals who are experiencing financial hardship can start the process of receiving rent relief by requesting an application appointment at [www.cityservenetwork.com/evictionprevention](http://www.cityservenetwork.com/evictionprevention). **Application appointments will be scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Rise Church, 5702 W Caldwell Ave, Visalia, California.**

"No one should lose their home because of the effects of the pandemic," said Karl Hargestam, executive director, CityServe Network. "The process to get assistance can be complicated and overwhelming, so we make it easy by guiding them at the starting point so they get on the path to stay in their homes."

### **How It Works**

Landlords can get reimbursed for 80% of past due rent accrued between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, if they agree to waive the remaining 20% of unpaid rent. Eligible renters whose landlords choose not to participate may still apply on their own and receive 25% of unpaid rent accrued between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021, through a direct payment to their landlord. If a landlord refuses direct payment, the 25% can be paid to the renter to pay missed rent to their landlord by June 30, 2021. Paying 25% of past due rent by June 30, 2021 can help keep renters in their homes under the extended eviction protections provided in [SB91](#). Eligible renters can also receive help paying future rent, equal to 25% of their monthly amount to help them stay in their homes, and 100% of up to 12 months of unpaid or future utility bills.

The pandemic has brought many unexpected challenges as millions of Americans have experienced financial hardship due to joblessness or illness. They face the dilemma of whether to pay for housing or buy food. With CityServe, local churches are trained and equipped to offer hope in the communities and guide individuals at the starting point that can often be confusing and overwhelming.

To start the application process, renters and landlords must request an appointment with CityServe at [www.cityservenetwork.com/evictionprevention](http://www.cityservenetwork.com/evictionprevention). CityServe representatives will explain the process, outline required documents, schedule the application appointment, and be the helping hand needed so individuals can keep their homes.

### **About CityServe**

CityServe is a collaborative network of churches and community leaders connected to help those in need live better lives. CityServe empowers the local church to fulfill its purpose to overcome despair and transform lives by resourcing them with tangible goods and capacity building. CityServe brings the church to the table to address community challenges by offering long-lasting relationships that lead to transformation and has been designated a "Community of Faith and Opportunity" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Since the launch of the food box program, the CityServe collaborative network has distributed over 4 million Farmers to Families food boxes to the "Last Mile of Need." For more information about CityServe and its initiatives, please visit [www.cityservenetwork.com](http://www.cityservenetwork.com) or on social platforms @cityservenetwork.

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