

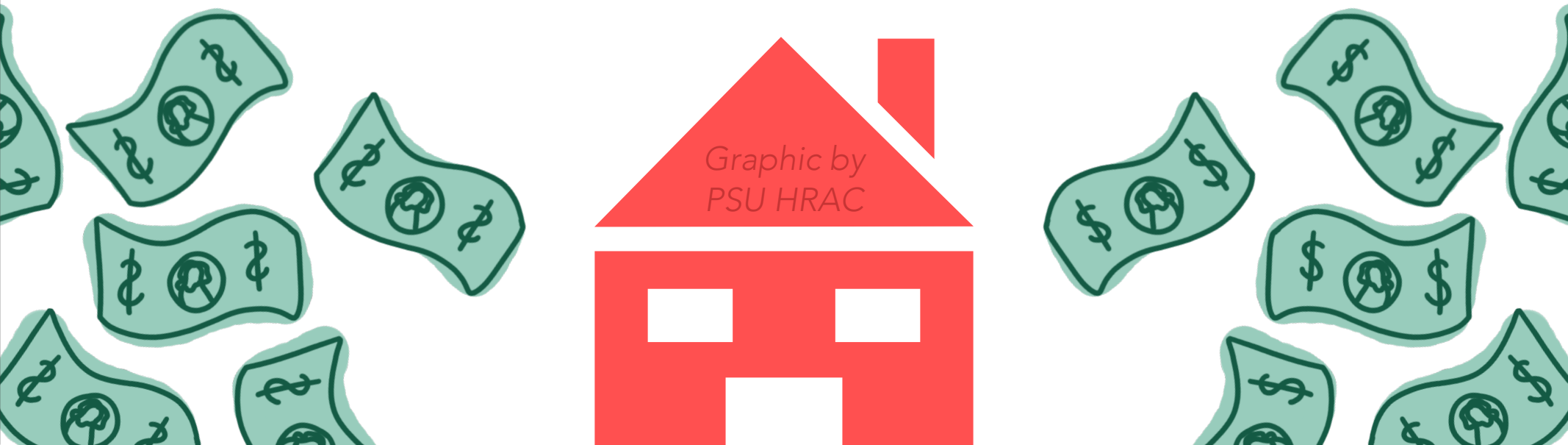
What does it mean to

CANCEL

RENT?

A conversation featuring Coya Crespín of Community Alliance of Tenants, Maya Neal of Kansas City Tenants, Miriam Axel-Lute of Shelterforce, and 'The Guardian'.

Graphic by
PSU HRAC



CANCELING RENT

AND MORTGAGE PAYMENTS...

"...means *passing laws that eliminate the obligation to pay rent, late fees and missed payments accrued during the pandemic.*"



-The Guardian

As many as **40 million people** nationwide are facing eviction due to inability to pay rent.

(Source: The Guardian).



Why cancel rent?

Rental assistance funds are only accessible to a small fraction of people who are suffering. Moratoriums aren't a sustainable solution- many tenants who can't pay now still won't be able to pay later.

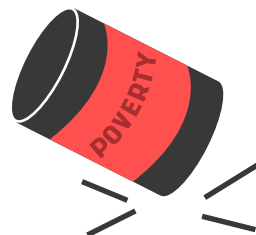
WHY?

Here's what people are saying



“(Moratoriums) are not sustainable and they’re kicking the can down the proverbial road. Canceling the rent is a policy solution that prioritizes renters and not the profits of landlords and corporate banks.”

*-Coya Crespín, Community Alliance
of Tenants (Portland, OR)*



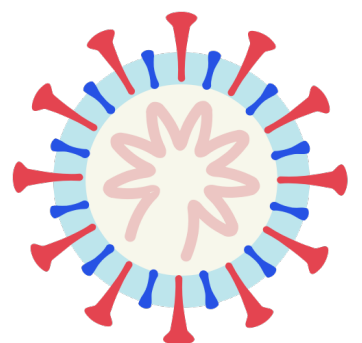
RENT CANCELLATION IS...

"...the only viable option. It's the smartest, least exhausting and most just option for renters.

Housing is a human right and should not be commodified.

If the prescription for fighting COVID is staying at home, what does that mean for those of us who cannot?"

-Maya Neal, Kansas City Tenants



LANDLORDS

"Being a landlord and having access to an additional property is a very powerful position."

The worst-case scenario is profit loss and having to reformulate their business, while a tenant will lose their home."

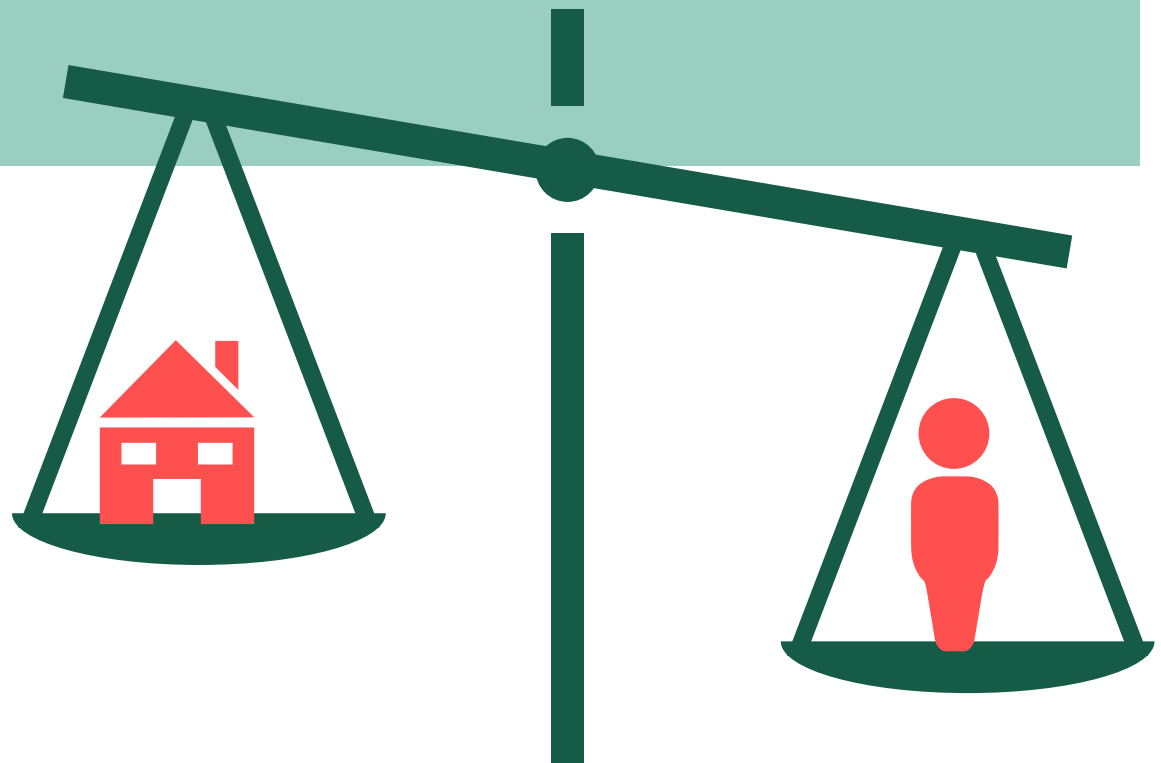
-Maya Neal, Kansas City Tenants



LANDLORDS

“Concurrently, mortgage debt must be forgiven or granted forbearance. Additional relief should prioritize at-risk landlords and providers of permanently affordable housing – while large corporate landlords should be taxed to help foot the bill”

-The Guardian



CANCELING RENT AND MORTGAGE PAYMENTS...

...would help undocumented people, where rent relief would not.

...would help working-class communities, communities of color, low-income households, and other marginalized groups.

...acts immediately, addressing the scope of the problem.



“For things to change we need a crisis. It will either be that we’re breaking the system to prevent evictions, or that the evictions happen first. The second one is unacceptable.”

-Miriam Axel-Lute, Shelterforce



SOURCES

1. Arreola, Lupe, and Amee Chew. "The US Is Facing an Eviction Tsunami. We Must Cancel Rent before It's Too Late." The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, Aug. 17, 2020, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/17/us-cancel-rent-eviction-tsunami
2. Nonprofit Quarterly webinar: Tenant Responses to the Eviction Crisis: A Roundtable Discussion (Sept. 1, 2020). Quotes from Crespín, Neal, Axel-Lute.



*Graphic by PSU Homelessness Research
and Action Collaborative*