

## Oregon provides \$8.5 million for rent relief in Oregon communities

The economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has left many Oregon families without resources to pay rent, buy food, make utility payments, and provide other necessities. Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has a COVID-19 Rent Relief Program that provides much-needed rent assistance for people who have experienced a loss of income and are at risk of homelessness due to COVID-19.

“Through no fault of their own, many Oregonian families are facing an abrupt loss of income and find themselves unable to pay their rent during this pandemic,” said governor Kate Brown. “Through Oregon Housing and Community Services, we can deliver immediate rent relief so that more families can stay housed as we work to build a safe and strong Oregon.”

Many Oregonians are struggling to pay rent, and low-income Oregonians and communities of color are more likely to be rent burdened than their white counterparts. For these reasons, OHCS has distributed thousands of dollars in funds to local community action agencies across the state, and Oregonians are encouraged to apply.

For more information about the COVID-19 Rent Relief Program, please reach out to the agency serving your county.

Oregon Human Development Corporation (OHDC) –  
Statewide: 1-855-215-6158

ACCESS, Inc. – Jackson County: (541) 779-6691

Lane County Human Services Commission (LCHHS) –  
Lane County: (541) 682-3798

Community Action (CAO) – Washington County:  
(503) 648-6646

Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) –  
Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties:  
(541) 298-5131

Community Action Program of East Central Oregon  
(CAPECO) – Gilliam, Morrow, and Umatilla Counties:  
1-800-752-1139

Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency  
(MWVCAA) – Marion and Polk Counties:  
(503) 585-6232

Community Action Team, Inc. (CAT) –  
Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook Counties:  
(503) 397-3511

Multnomah County Department of Human Services –  
Multnomah County: (503) 988-7453

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon (CCNO) –  
Wallowa, Union, Baker, and Grant Counties:  
(541) 963-3186

NeighborImpact (NIMPACT) – Jefferson,  
Crook, and Deschutes Counties: (541) 548-2380

Clackamas County Social Services Department  
(CCSSD) – Clackamas County: (503) 655-8575

Community in Action (CINA) –  
Harney and Malheur Counties: (541) 889-1060

Oregon Coast Community Action (ORCCA) –  
Coos and Curry Counties: (541) 435-7080

Community Service Consortium (CSC) –  
Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties:  
Benton County: (541) 752-1010  
Lincoln County: (541) 574-2280  
Linn County: (541) 928-6335

United Community Action Network (UCAN) –  
Douglas and Josephine Counties: (541) 672-5392

Klamath/Lake Community Action Services (KLCAS) –  
Klamath and Lake Counties: (541) 882-3500

Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP) –  
Yamhill County: (503) 472-0457

To apply for rent relief, contact your local community action agency. Be sure to have your loss of income documented and ready to share. Please note that rental assistance payments are made directly to landlords on behalf of tenants.

“The last two months have been trying for many in our communities,” said OHCS director Margaret Salazar, “Oregonians were already struggling to find a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. As families grapple with lost wages, the need is even greater. I am so grateful to get this assistance in the hands of our friends and neighbors in need, including farmworkers and their families who are facing unique housing challenges.”

The \$8.5 million was allocated by the Oregon Legislature through the Joint Emergency Board. OHCS anticipates additional resources from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act will be made available in the weeks ahead.

To learn more, visit the website of Oregon Housing and Community Services, <[www.oregon.gov/ohcs](http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs)>.

## Kumail Nanjiani is finding his way through “The Weirds”

By Jake Coyle  
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK — Kumail Nanjiani has a few names for quarantine life. He has divided time firmly between “pre-Hanks/Wilson” and “post-Hanks/Wilson,” referring to the early COVID-19 diagnosis for Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson. And he has settled on calling the strange, bewildering days of lockdown “The Weirds.” This applies to all the confusion and just plain odd parts of life since the pandemic began. Like when Nanjiani was on “Good Morning America” in May.

“I did that over Zoom from my garage. It’s New York time, 5:00am, so the sun’s not out. I’m wearing pajama bottoms,” says Nanjiani. “It’s just a strange reminder of how different everything is right now.”

With his wife, screenwriter Emily V. Gordon, Nanjiani has been chronicling all the mood swings, anxieties, and small comforts of quarantine life from their home in Los Angeles in their for-charity podcast “Staying In.” Right now, after more altruistic periods, Nanjiani considers himself in his “most selfish phase.” Like everyone else, he wants his life back.

But the quarantine has also given Nanjiani a chance to contemplate a whirlwind few years. Since his breakthrough in 2017’s Oscar-nominated *The Big Sick*, an autobiographical romantic comedy he wrote with Gordon about the dramatic beginning of their relationship, Nanjiani has morphed into a leading man.

He played an Uber driver with Dave Bautista in *Stuber*. He voiced a tiny CGI alien in *Men in Black International*, and a mischievous ostrich in *Dolittle*. He’ll co-star in the upcoming Marvel movie *The Eternals*. And now, he’s starring alongside Issa Rae (“Insecure”) in *The Lovebirds*, a comedy in which a couple, just after splitting, become embroiled in a deadly crime saga. It debuted on Netflix after the streaming company acquired the film from Paramount Pictures due to the pandemic.

Not all the projects have worked. But even in the disappointments, the 42-year-old Nanjiani has been a bright spot of unrelenting deadpan sarcasm, spiralling neurosis, and authentic sweetness. He tends to make anything he’s in better.

As a Pakistani-American stand-up comedian-turned-actor, Nanjiani is unlike any star before him. He’s now



**KUMAIL’S QUARANTINE.** Pakistani-American stand-up comedian-turned-actor Kumail Nanjiani has a few names for quarantine life. He has settled on calling the strange, bewildering days of lockdown “The Weirds,” which applies to all the confusion and just plain odd parts of life since the pandemic began. Nanjiani is seen on the right in this scene from *The Lovebirds* alongside Issa Rae, left. (Skip Bolen/Netflix)

finding his way in a Hollywood where South Asian actors, when they’re cast at all, have usually been typecast. So right now, when Nanjiani isn’t freaking out about the pandemic, he’s contemplating what kind of movies he wants to make.

“It’s honestly during this quarantine that I sat down and sort of thought, ‘What do I want the next five years of my life to look like?’” he says. “Sometimes you just do things because people are asking you to do it and it’s a big-budget thing. The last few years, I’ve gotten to do some stuff that I really enjoyed, that I loved, and some stuff that I didn’t enjoy that didn’t turn out great.”

Nothing captured Nanjiani’s transformation more than a photo he posted in December on Instagram displaying his new chiselled physique, a result of training for *The Eternals*. The photo — a good distance from the computer nerd of his “Silicon Valley” character — kicked off a storm of debate about body image and “the twilight of the schlubs.”

“To me it was important. I was playing the first Pakistani superhero in a Hollywood movie, in a Marvel movie no less,” says Nanjiani. “And it was very important to me that this guy looked like he could hang with Thor or Captain America.”

Nanjiani considers *The Eternals*, slated for release next year, a new direction he’s eager to continue — not just because it’s a step outside of comedy but because of the experience working with the director, Chloé Zhao (*The Rider*). “She’s really one of the great filmmakers of our time,” he says. “Working with her changed my perspective. I realized: I want to be working with someone who makes me

feel that safe.”

*The Lovebirds* is also a result of a trusted relationship. It’s directed by Michael Showalter, who directed *The Big Sick* and has collaborated with Nanjiani going back to the 2009 series “Michael and Michael Have Issues.”

For Showalter, the appeal of *The Lovebirds* was predicated largely on the combination of Nanjiani and Rae.

“I just love that they’re 21st-century movie stars. They’re not what we’re used to seeing,” says Showalter. “The idea of a movie with these two actors playing romantic opposites in a fun action movie felt like a really invigorating, fresh piece of casting that makes the whole thing feel interesting.”

It’s clear that Nanjiani is motivated partly by taking roles that others might not expect him to. He’s drawn to subverting stereotypes because he doesn’t fit them, anyway.

“I don’t feel like I belong in any specific group. I don’t say that as a way of being like, ‘You can’t put me in a box. I’m so weird.’ I would like to belong to a specific group,” says Nanjiani. “But I don’t feel Pakistani because I don’t live in Pakistan. I don’t feel American because a lot of Americans don’t think of me as American. I do comedy but I also other things.”

During quarantine, Nanjiani went back and watched three movies he hadn’t seen since he was 10: *Krull*, *Beastmaster*, and *The Thief of Baghdad*.

“Suddenly there would be an image and you’re like, ‘Oh, my god. This is part of my DNA,’” says Nanjiani. “I realized that the things I loved about movies when I was eight years old are still the things I love about movies.”

### Spike in coronavirus cases in Oregon traced to gatherings

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Morgan Emerson, preparedness coordinator with Deschutes County Health Services, told the TV station that 18 of the county’s 25 new cases were traced back to family or social gatherings, including some of the coronavirus cases in Redmond.

“Some of this rise is due to multi-household gatherings,” Emerson told KPTV. “We have seen similar trends of cases associated with attending family and social gatherings in other areas of Deschutes County as well.”

Emerson said the new cases predated Deschutes County’s recent approval for Oregon’s Phase 1 reopening plan. The majority of new cases came from known contacts, not

strangers, she said.

State officials urged people to stay close to home during Memorial Day weekend and to avoid large gatherings with anyone outside of

their own household.

“Even if you’re healthy, going to ... a large event [with] many extended households getting together — this isn’t the year,” Emerson said.

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<b>SLOW THE SPREAD</b>	<b>GATHER ENOUGH PPE</b>	<b>TRACK &amp; CONTAIN CASES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We keep physical distancing</li> <li>• Fewer cases and deaths</li> <li>• Protect against a flare-up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enough masks, gloves, gowns and other gear to protect all health care workers and first-responders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More testing</li> <li>• A system to trace people who have been near infected people so we know who may have been exposed</li> <li>• A stay-at-home program for newly infected people</li> </ul>
WHEN CAN OREGON <b>START TO REOPEN?</b>		