

Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit – Homelessness Frequently Asked Questions

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Q: Who is eligible for the homelessness stream of the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit (CMHB)?

- A. To be eligible for the homelessness stream of the CMHB, you must:
- complete a program application;
 - be receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) or non-EIA Rent Assist;
 - need assistance to cover rental costs;
 - be a Canadian Citizen, permanent resident of Canada or refugee claimant;
 - live in private rental accommodation; and
 - have a tenancy agreement.

Q: I'm 65 years old and no longer eligible to receive EIA. Can I still apply for the CMHB?

- A. Yes. Individuals over the age of 65 who are no longer receiving EIA can still apply for the CMHB. If an applicant's net income is at or below \$28,720 (this is the non-EIA Rent Assist Disability Program Income Limit as of January 23), they will receive the maximum benefit.

Q: I have a job and I'm a refugee claimant and therefore I'm not eligible for EIA or non-EIA Rent Assist. Can I still apply for the CMHB?

- A. Yes. Working refugee claimants can still apply for the CMHB. If an applicant's net income is at or below \$28,720 (this is the non-EIA Rent Assist Disability Program Income Limit as of January 23), they will receive the maximum benefit.

Some refugee claimants receive the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) while waiting on EIA enrollment. Refugee claimants waiting for enrollment on EIA and receiving income support from RAP will have their benefit calculated as Rent – RAP shelter allowance = CMHB, up to a maximum of \$350 per month.

Q: What happens after I apply?

- A. You will get a letter in the mail or an email informing you that your application is approved, denied, or if more information is needed.

Q: Once I submit an application, how long will it take to hear if I've been approved?

- A. It will take approximately 2 to 4 weeks to process your application. After that, you will receive a letter in the mail or an email informing you of your application status.

Q: Does my landlord need to know that I am receiving the CMHB?

- A. No. You have the choice to receive the monthly benefit directly; your landlord does not need to know you are receiving this benefit.

Q: How is the CMHB paid? Can I request that the benefit go directly to my landlord, trustee, or power of attorney?

- A. You can decide how you want to receive the benefit. You can request that the benefit is paid directly to you via direct deposit, or a cheque sent to you by mail. You can also choose to have the benefit sent to your landlord, trustee, or power of attorney.

Please note that direct deposit is the preferred method of payment.

Q: How is my benefit amount calculated?

- A. Unless otherwise stated, the CMHB will be calculated as follows for eligible applicants:

For applicants receiving EIA Rent Assist, the benefit will be calculated as:

$$\text{CMHB} = \text{Rent} - \text{Rent Assist, up to } \$350 \text{ per month}$$

For applicants receiving EIA Rent Assist, the benefit will be calculated as:

$$\text{CMHB} = \text{Rent} - (30\% \text{ of income} + \text{Non-EIA Rent Assist}), \text{ up to } \$350 \text{ per month}$$

If you are paying for your utilities out of pocket (i.e., a cold rent), you are eligible to receive an additional \$72 on top of your monthly benefit amount to help with your utility costs.

Q: Is the CMHB taxable income?

- A. The CMHB is not taxable income. However, you will receive a T5007 at tax time as the benefit must be claimed as a social assistance payment (the same as Rent Assist, for example).

Q: What happens if I move, am evicted, or my income changes?

- A. You must report any changes in your personal information, such as change of address, rent amount, or income as soon as possible. To do this, [download the Change in Information Form](#) and provide it to End Homelessness Winnipeg or Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation.

Q: How long can I receive the benefit?

- A. There is no time limit attached to the benefit. You may receive the benefit as long as you are eligible.

However, the CMHB is funded under the National Housing Strategy Canada-Manitoba Bilateral Agreement, which ends March 31, 2028. You will be informed of next steps closer to this date.

Q: Am I still eligible if I live with a family member or friend's house but am paying rent?

- A. Yes, you are still eligible as long as you meet the eligibility criteria, pay rent and have a written rent agreement with the person from which you are renting. If you do not have a written rent agreement, your landlord or the person from which you are renting can [download a form](#) and provide with your application.

Q: Do I need to reapply every year?

- A. You must renew your application each year to continue receiving the benefit. You will receive a renewal notice 90 days before the expiry of your benefit. The notice will include the renewal form for you to complete.

Q: I do not receive the CMHB but need help with my utilities payment. Can I receive the \$72 utilities payment?

A. No, you must be receiving the CMHB to receive the \$72 utilities payment in addition to paying for your utilities out of pocket (i.e., cold rent).

Manitoba Housing offers a [variety of other programs and supports](#) that may help you.

Q: If I live with a roommate and pay a “cold rent”, do both of us receive the utilities payment?

A. Yes, as long as you both qualify for the CMHB, and are paying for utilities out of pocket, you both would receive the utilities payment.

Q: Do I need to have filed my income tax to receive the benefit?

A. No, eligibility for CMHB is dependent on being in receipt of EIA or non-EIA Rent Assist.

Q: Do I need a referral from a support service agency to be eligible for the CMHB?

A. No, please see the following for directions on how to apply.

Q. How can I apply?

A. To apply for the CMHB, [download an application form](#).

If you are renting in Winnipeg, you can also email CMHB@endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca to have an application form mailed to you.

If you are renting in all other areas outside of Winnipeg (except Thompson), you can email rentsupplement@bnrc.ca or supplement@bnrc.ca to get an application form mailed to you.

