

Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit – Survivors of Gender-Based Violence Frequently Asked Questions

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

Q: Who is eligible for the Survivors of Gender-Based Violence stream of the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit (CMHB)?

A: Year One

To be eligible for the Survivors of Gender-Based Violence stream of the CMHB, applicants must:

- be referred to the program through an approved gender-based violence agency
- complete a program application
- be a Canadian Citizen, permanent resident of Canada or refugee claimant
- live in private rental accommodation
- have a tenancy agreement or have a mortgage and live there permanently

Year Two

Recipients are eligible to continue receiving the CMHB if they meet the above criteria, in addition to:

- have an annual net income at or below the current Program Income Limit

\$29,280 for a single person

\$32,960 for two people

\$42,400 for three or four people

\$54,360 for five or more people

- or be receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) or non-EIA Rent Assist

Applicants may not apply for the CMHB if:

- the perpetrator of the gender-based violence is living with them
- they rent their home from Manitoba Housing or other subsidized housing (including student housing)
- they live in a hospital or residential care facility
- they sublet their home or apartment
- they do not live in their home permanently
- they live on a First Nations reserve
- they live outside of Manitoba

Q: What happens after I apply?

A: You will receive a letter to inform you that your application is approved, denied, or if more information is needed. If more information is needed, you may be pre-approved until you provide the necessary information. Participants will not receive any funding until all necessary information has been provided.

Note: The approval letter can be sent to you by email or mail, or it can be sent to the agency that you are working with by email or mail.

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

A: It will take approximately five business days to process your full application. After that, you will receive a letter to inform 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 or Public Trustee?

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. If you do not have access to mail, the cheque may be sent to your alternate contact, the agency you are working with, or may be held at Provincial Services, 114 Garry Street, Winnipeg for you to pick-up in person. You can also choose to have the benefit sent to your landlord or Public Trustee.

Note: Direct deposit is the preferred method of payment. The \$72 utilities top up must be paid directly to you either by direct deposit or cheque.

Q: Can I receive the CMHB if I haven't left my relationship?

A: No, only applicants that have left their gender-based violence relationships are eligible for the SGBV stream of the CMHB.

Note: If your household needs assistance with their rent, you can apply to the homelessness stream of the CMHB. The application is available at www.gov.mb.ca/housing/progs/cmhb/cmhb-homelessness.html

Q: How is my benefit amount calculated?

A: The CMHB is calculated based on the number of bedrooms in the unit used for sleeping. The CMHB will not pay for more bedrooms than the household needs.

Applicants who pay their utilities separate from their rent and homeowners will have an additional \$72 added to their monthly CMHB payment.

Year One

Number of bedrooms	Calculation
Studio or one bedroom	CMHB = \$350 per month
Two bedrooms	CMHB = \$610 per month
Three bedrooms or more	CMHB = \$805 per month

Each Year After Year One

Applicants receiving EIA Rent Assist

Number of bedrooms	Calculation
Studio or one bedroom	CMHB = Rent or mortgage payment – Rent Assist, up to \$350 per month
Two bedrooms	CMHB = Rent or mortgage payment – Rent Assist, up to \$610 per month
Three bedrooms or more	CMHB = Rent or mortgage payment – Rent Assist, up to \$805 per month

Applicants receiving non-EIA Rent Assist

Number of bedrooms	Calculation
Studio or one bedroom	CMHB = Rent or mortgage payment – (30% of income + non-EIA Rent Assist), up to \$350 per month
Two bedrooms	CMHB = Rent or mortgage payment – (30% of income + non-EIA Rent Assist), up to \$610 per month
Three bedrooms or more	CMHB = Rent or mortgage payment – (30% of income + non-EIA Rent Assist), up to \$805 per month

Applicants with income under the Program Income Limit

Number of bedrooms	Calculation
Studio or one bedroom	CMHB = Rent or monthly mortgage payments – 30% of income, up to \$350 per month
Two bedrooms	CMHB = Rent or monthly mortgage payments – 30% of income up to \$610 per month
Three bedrooms or more	CMHB = Rent or monthly mortgage payments – 30% of income up to \$805 per month

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. In the second year of receiving the benefit, changes to rent amount, or income must also be reported as soon as possible. To do this fill out a change of information form and submit it to Provincial Services.

You can call Provincial Services at 204-948-7368 or 1-877-587-6224 (toll-free) to have a change in information form mailed to you. Applications can also be picked up from 114 Garry Street in Winnipeg.

Q: What if my child does not currently live with me because of an apprehension by CFS?

A: In the event of an apprehension or an ongoing reunification plan with CFS, you can receive the CMHB for a home with the number of rooms you need for when your children return to your care.

Q: How long can I receive the benefit?

A: There is no time limit attached to the benefit. 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: Do I need to reapply every year?

A: Yes, you must renew your application each year to continue receiving the benefit. In this stream, when you renew your application, you will be required to report your annual income. 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.

You can also call Provincial Services at 204-948-7368 or 1-877-587-6224 (toll-free) to have a change in information form mailed to you. Applications can also be picked up from 114 Garry Street in Winnipeg.

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.

Q: If I live with a roommate who also receives the CMHB and we both pay for our utilities out of pocket, will we both receive the utilities payment?

A: Yes, as long as both renters qualify for the CMHB and are paying for utilities out of pocket, both applicants 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 the eligibility criteria listed above.

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/mortgage, and have a written rent agreement with the person you are renting from. If you do not have a written rent agreement, your landlord or the person you are renting from can find one to fill out on the following website: [Residential Tenancies Branch - Commonly Used Landlord Forms](#) or speak to your referring agency or Provincial Services for a tenancy form.

Q: How can I apply for the SGBV stream of the CMHB?

A: To apply for the SGBV stream of the CMHB, contact one of the approved agencies:

Agency Name	Community
Alpha House Project Inc.	Winnipeg
Bravestone Centre Inc.	St. Norbert
Eastman Crisis Centre Inc. (aka Agape House)	Steinbach
Fort Gary Women's Resource Centre Inc.	Winnipeg
Interlake Women's Resource Centre Inc.	Gimli
Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin Inc.	Winnipeg
Lakeshore Family Resource Centre Inc.	Ashern
L'Entre- Temps des Franco-Manitobaines Inc. (aka Chez Rachel)	Winnipeg
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc.	Winnipeg
Mary's House	Brandon
Men are Part of the Solution-(MAPS)	Thompson
North End Women's Resource Centre Inc.	Winnipeg
NorWest Co-op Community Health Inc. / A Woman's Place	Winnipeg
Nova House Inc.	Selkirk
Parkland Crisis Centre Inc.	Dauphin
Pluri-elles (Manitoba) Inc.	Winnipeg
Prairie Harbour Inc.	Portage La Prairie
South Central Committee on Family Violence (aka Genesis House)	Winkler
Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre Inc. - SADI Program	Pinawa
Swan Valley Crisis Centre Inc.	Swan River
The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis Inc. (aka Aurora House)	The Pas
Thompson Crisis Centre Inc.	Thompson
Velma's House	Winnipeg
Wahbung Abinoonjiiag Inc.	Winnipeg
West Central Women's Resource Centre Inc.	Winnipeg
Western Manitoba Women's Regional Resource Centre Inc.	Brandon
Women's Safe Haven/Resource Services Inc.	Flin Flon
Willow Place Inc.	Winnipeg
YWCA Westman Women's Shelter	Brandon