

Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit – Youth Frequently Asked Questions

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

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

A. To be eligible for the youth stream of the CMHB, you must:

- be a young adult (17 to 26 years old) that has been in the care of Manitoba Child and Family Services (CFS), including Indigenous Governing Bodies;
- complete a program application;
- be receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) or non-EIA Rent Assist **OR**

have a net income at or below \$28,720 (this is the non-EIA Rent Assist Disability Program Income Limit as of January 2023.) ;

- need assistance to cover rental costs;
- live in private rental accommodation; and
- have a tenancy agreement. *Note: If an applicant does not have a signed tenancy/rent agreement when they apply for the CMHB, the application may be pre-approved until the applicant obtains a tenancy/rent agreement. At that time, the benefit amount can be determined.*

Q: I am preparing to leave care of CFS, can I still apply?

A. Yes, you can still apply if you are preparing to leave care of CFS. You may be pre-approved until we receive confirmation that you are no longer receiving financial supports from CFS.

Q: What happens after I apply?

A. You will get a letter in the mail 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.

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 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, 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 and the sole method to receive the \$72 utilities top up if you are paying for your utilities out of pocket (unless you have circumstances that do not allow for direct deposit).

Q: How is my benefit amount calculated?

A. For eligible applicants, the CMHB will be calculated as:

If you are receiving EIA Rent Assist, your benefit will be calculated as:

CMHB = Rent – Rent Assist, up to \$350 per month

If you are receiving non-EIA Rent Assist, your benefit will be calculated as:

CMHB = Rent – (30% of income + non-EIA rent assist), up to \$350 per month

If you are not receiving EIA or non-EIA Rent Assist, the benefit will be \$350 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 submit it to Provincial Services.

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.

Q: How long is the benefit for?

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: 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 you are renting from. If you do not have a written rent agreement, your landlord or the person you are renting from can [download a form](#) and provide it to Provincial Services 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.

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.

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).

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 members 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 being in receipt of EIA or non-EIA rent assist **or** having a net income at or below the non-EIA Rent Assist Disability Program Income Limit.

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 youth stream of the CMHB, [download an application form](#), or call Provincial Services at 204-948-7368 in Winnipeg; 1-877-587-6224 toll free; or TTY 204-948-3698 to have an application form mailed to you.

Agencies can assist youth to apply for the CMHB.

