

Canada Manitoba Housing Benefit Program Details

The Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit (CMHB) is one of three funding streams of the bilateral agreement under the National Housing Strategy. Funding for the program is available between 2020/21 and 2027/28. The CMHB will be a new program that will build on Manitoba's existing Rent Assist program. The CMHB will be stacked with Rent Assist to reduce or eliminate housing need in particularly vulnerable target populations, and will enable greater access to the private rental market¹.

In Manitoba, the CMHB will initially target three groups: youth aging out of care of Child and Family Services, those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and Manitobans living with mental health and addictions issues.

Youth Transitioning Out of Care Stream

The youth stream will provide a portable rent supplement for up to 24 months to support youth transitioning, or youth who have recently transitioned (within a year), out of the care of CFS, helping prevent homelessness.

This stream will be administered by the department through Provincial Services. Youth will apply for the benefit by submitting an application to Provincial Services. Applications can be completed:

- online (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/about/csd/provincial.html>)
- by calling 204-948-7368 in Winnipeg or 1-877-587-6224 (toll free) or by calling TTY 204-948-3698 to receive a copy of the application form by mail

Once approved, youth will receive the benefit by direct deposit or mail, or they can consent for the benefit to be paid directly to their landlord via trusteeship. They will have the ability to withdraw this consent.

All youth who have exited care (regardless of their legal status at the age of majority) or are transitioning out of care (under an Agreement with Young Adult [AYA]) are eligible to receive the benefit, if they are at or below the Disability Program Income Limit (PIL) of the non-Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Rent Assist program². Eligible youth who are enrolled in EIA or who receive non-EIA Rent Assist are also eligible to receive the benefit.

The CMHB will be calculated as:

- The CMHB private market rent supplements for people receiving Rent Assist:
Market rent – Rent Assist = CMHB, up to \$250
- The CMHB private market rent supplements for people receiving non-EIA Rent Assist:
Market rent – (30% income + non-EIA Rent Assist) = CMHB, up to \$250
- The CMHB private market rent supplements for people without any rent assistance from EIA or non-EIA Rent Assist will be \$250

¹ For greater clarity, the private rental market does not include Manitoba Housing or other community (subsidized) housing, and does not include housing on reserve.

² The current non-EIA Rent Assist Disability PIL is \$25,280.

Youth enrolled into EIA will still be eligible to receive the monthly financial allowance.

If youth exiting care are not receiving EIA, are financially eligible and have ongoing health costs, they may be eligible for EIA Health Card Only. Prescription coverage would start with eligibility and dental and optical coverage would be available 6 months after enrollment. The youth must still make an application for EIA benefits in order to be found eligible for EIA Health Card Only benefits. Further, EIA will provide recipients of the benefit market rate security deposits if the youth requires them.

Eligibility requirements for the CMHB Youth Stream, as follows:

- A completed program application
- Must be receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) or non-EIA Rent Assist; or have a net income at or below \$25,280
- Need assistance to cover their rental costs
- Be a Canadian Citizen, permanent resident of Canada or refugee claimant
- Live in private rental accommodation
- Have a tenancy agreement

Eligible Placements:

Program participants are youth who are transitioning out of care (under an AYA) or have recently exited care (regardless legal status, within one year), having reach the age of majority (18 years old), or having their AYA status expire. Eligible placements include:

- Youth who have exited care – private rental arrangements where the recipient has a tenancy agreement with a landlord.
- Youth transitioning out of care or those under AYAs. AYA status allows youth (18 years up to age 21) to receive supports services as they prepare for transition out of care. Youth residing in Transition to Independence (formerly known as Interdependent Living) and Independent Living placements will be eligible to receive the benefit if the youth have a tenancy agreement with the landlord.

Youth residing in Independent Living placements in First Nation communities are ineligible to receive the Benefit.

This benefit will not be taxable but are taken into account when determining eligibility for and quantum of other federal and provincial benefits

Agencies can assist youth to apply for the CMHB by downloading an application form, or calling 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.