

## Child Protection Branch Communication



**Date:** May 19, 2023

### COMMUNICATION NUMBER:

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**To:** **Child and Family Services Authorities, Child and Family Services Agencies, Community Care Providers, Community Funded Organizations**

**Subject:** **Enhancements to the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit - Youth Stream**

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**Type:**  Policy  Standards Amendment  For Internal Use Only  
 Procedure  Regulatory Amendment  For Information

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2023

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The Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit (CMHB) - Youth Stream provides a portable rent benefit to youth transitioning out of Manitoba's child welfare system who are in core housing need.

The CMHB - Youth Stream was launched on May 31, 2021 and is part of Manitoba Housing's rental and housing supports programming.

The benefit is eligible for youth under both Agreements with Young Adults and Supports for Young Adults Grant who are residing in private rental accommodations or in Independent Living Programs with a lease arrangement administered and supported by Community Care Providers and Child and Family Services Agencies.

In order to increase assistance to youth transitioning out of care, the following changes to the CMHB - Youth Stream will be implemented effective July 1, 2023:

#### Eligibility

- Expanded eligibility to anyone who has been in care, up to the age of 26. Young adults are longer required to apply within one year of transitioning out of care.
- Youth are able to receive the benefit as needed up to the age of 26 to help maintain housing stability with no eligibility time limit.

#### Benefit

- Increased benefit amount of up to a maximum of \$350 per month, retroactive to April 1, 2023.
- A top up of \$72 for individuals paying a cold rent (monthly rent that does not include utilities), retroactive to April 1, 2023.

#### Application

- Improved application process with reduced requirements to improve benefit accessibility.

- A fillable and printable application form and for more information on the CMHB, please visit Manitoba Housing's CMHB webpage at <https://gov.mb.ca/housing/progs/cmhb/index.html>

Youth and young adults who have exited care are eligible to receive the CMHB benefit alongside their Non-EIA Rent Assist or Employment and Income Assistance (EIA).

This benefit is intended to directly support the housing needs of youth and young adults exiting care to provide a financial benefit for those at risk of and experiencing homelessness as well as low-income renters. The Department has heard that not all Child and Family Services Agencies or workers are aware of this benefit so please share information broadly and widely with your agencies so that youth and young adults can access this benefit as needed.

Any questions around the CMHB-Youth Stream can be directed to James Houston, Strategic Policy Manager at [james.houston@gov.mb.ca](mailto:james.houston@gov.mb.ca).



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