

30
YEARS

FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE

Shoulder to Shoulder, Side by Side

Walking with Uprooted People for more than 30 years

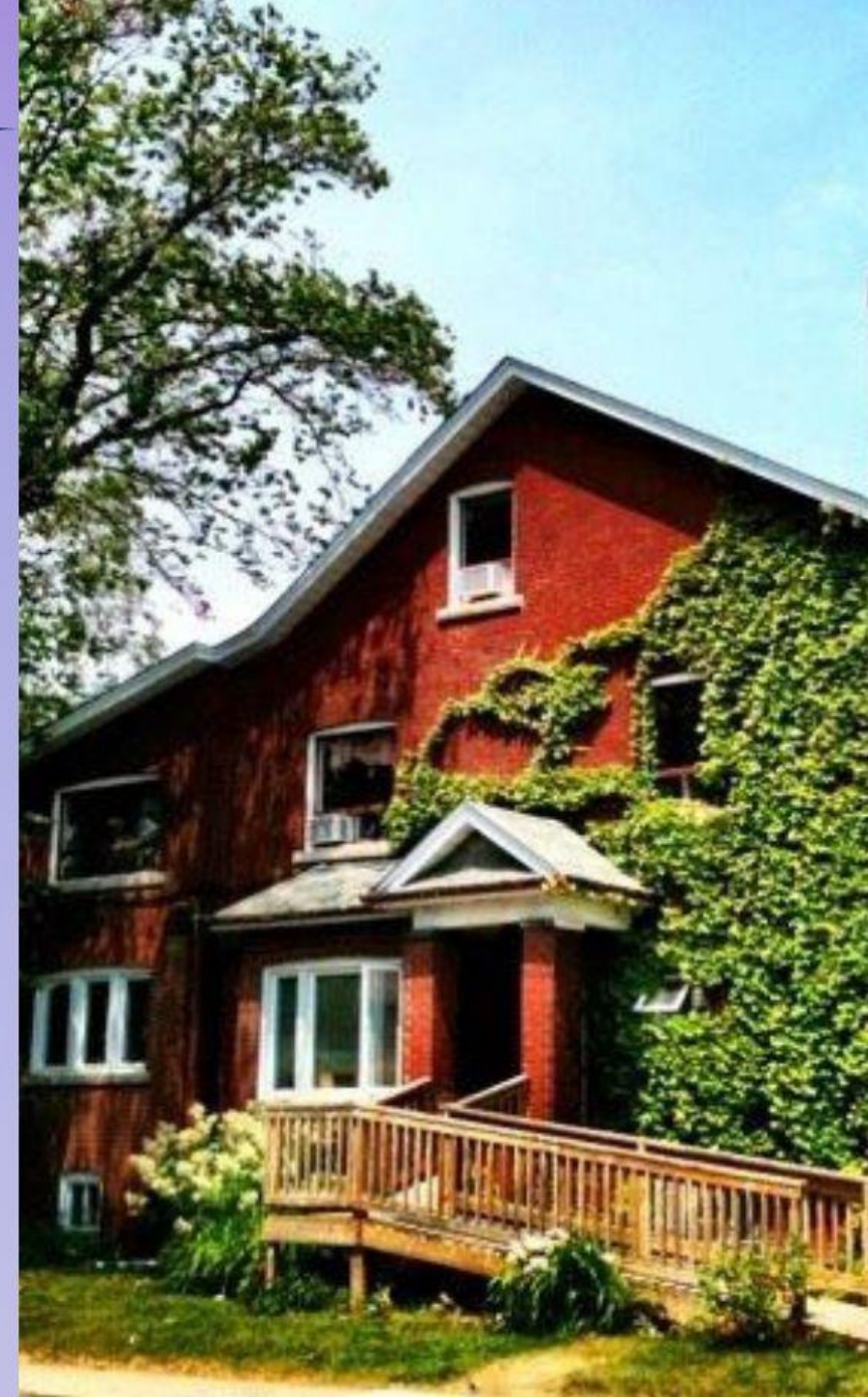


Housing Benefits

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**The Law
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What are the Housing Benefits?

- Housing benefits are the subsidies/benefits that helps with the housing costs.
- Housing benefits can be a portable (that means Allowance is for a particular household rather than for a specific housing unit, so is portable within Ontario.
- Allowance are calculated based on monthly rent and adjusted net income.
- Allowance are eligible based on the eligibility criteria as well.

Different Kinds of Housing Benefits

- COBH (Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit)
- Priority Housing- Victims/Survivors of Domestic Abuse
- Priority Housing- Victims/Survivors of Human Trafficking.
- Subsidized Housing
- One-Time Top Up Canada Housing Benefits.

Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit

- The Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) program provides households with a portable housing benefit to assist with rental costs in the private housing market. The benefit is tied to the household and can be used to help pay rent anywhere in Ontario.
- COHB is a portable benefit, which means that it will continue to support recipients wherever they move in Ontario.
- COHB will cover the difference between the rent & OW.

Eligibility for the COHB Program

- COHB applicants must reside permanently in Ontario and be on, or eligible to be on, the [Centralized Waiting List for social housing](#).
- The benefit amount will depend on the recipient's household size and income.
- To receive the COHB, applicants must agree to be removed from the Centralized Waiting List as required by provincial program guidelines.

Eligibility for the COHB Program

- The COHB will pay the difference between the shelter allowance and the household's rent and utilities costs up to the maximum COHB amount.
- The COHB is administered by the province of Ontario and benefit amount will be reviewed every year.

Application Process

- The application is not open to the public and it can be done through the shelter where you are in.
- Once you are contacted by your worker that you are eligible for COHB benefit you will need the following documents for submission:
 - • Your complete current address or the one you plan to move to
 - Rental costs
 - Utility costs (if paid directly by household)
 - Mailing address
 - Banking information (Banking information can be found on a cheque)
 - Shelter allowance amount- if you are receiving social assistance)

Survivors of Domestic Abuse or HT

- There is a special program called the special Priority Program(SPP) for households with current or recent experience of domestic abuse or human trafficking that gives them priority access to housing.
- Please be aware that it can take some time to secure housing. Therefore, if you are looking for a referral to a Violence Against Women shelter call:
 - **Assaulted Women's Helpline at 416-863-0511; 1-866-963-7868**
 - **Human Trafficking Helpline 1-833-999-9211**

Who can apply

- You must meet the criteria for either domestic violence and sponsorship abuse or human trafficking.
- You live or lived with an individual who is abusing you or is sponsoring the abused member as an immigrant.
- If you are member of the household being or been trafficked.

Abuse

(The Housing Services Act)

- Physical or sexual violence;
- Controlling behavior; or
- Intentional destruction of or intentional injury to property, or words, actions or gestures that threaten the member or lead the member to fear for his or her safety; or
- Forced labor, sex work or marriage of the member done by any individual.

Abuser (Except in Cases of Human Trafficking)

The abuser is a member of your household and can be:

- the individual's spouse, partner, parent, child or other family member.
- a person who is sponsoring the individual as an immigrant.
- a person on whom the individual is emotionally, physically or financially dependent.

Trafficking

The abuser is a member of your household and can be:

- the individual's spouse, partner, parent, child or other family member.
- a person who is sponsoring the individual as an immigrant.
- a person on whom the individual is emotionally, physically or financially dependent.

Provincial Eligibility Criteria

- Have status in Canada; including: Canadian citizen, Indigenous, landed immigrant (permanent resident), applicant for permanent resident status, or a refugee or refugee claimant
 - [List of Acceptable IDs](#)
- Have filed the previous year's Income Tax Return
 - Are a resident of Toronto
 - Are not currently receiving RGI assistance
- Are paying more than 30% of Adjusted Family Net Income towards rent
- Do not have arrears with a social housing provider or have an active repayment plan
 - Do not own a home suitable for year round occupation

Referral Form (AHT Housing Allowance)



Anti-Human Trafficking Housing Allowance

Section 1: Housing Allowance Program Eligibility Criteria*

Referring Agency & Site: Choose an item.	
Referring Program: Shelter <i>If relocation, identify location:</i> Click here to enter text.	
Referral Worker Name: Click here to enter text.	Site Lead Name: Click here to enter text.
Telephone Number: Click here to enter text.	Telephone Number: Click here to enter text.
Email:	Email:
Service(s) requested:	Is this client's first referral? Choose an item.

Section 2: Housing Allowance Program Eligibility Criteria*

First Name: Click here to enter text.	Last Name: Click here to enter text.	Preferred First Name: Click here to enter text.
SMIS ID (if applicable): Click here to enter text.		Date of Birth (yyyy-mm-dd): Click here to enter a date.
Gender: Male		
Does client identify as Indigenous or having Indigenous/Aboriginal ancestry? No		
Family Status: Single (no dependants)	Number of dependents: 1	
Spouse Name (First, Last): Click here to enter text.		
Client Primary Income Source: Choose an item.		
Total Household Income: Click here to enter text.		

Section 3: Housing Allowance Program Eligibility Criteria*

Have status in Canada, including: Canadian citizen, Indigenous, landed immigrant (permanent resident), applicant for permanent resident status, or a refugee or refugee claimant: Choose an item.	
Resident of Toronto: Choose an item.	Currently Receiving RGI assistance: Choose an item.
Will be paying above 30% of Adjusted Family Net Income	Have filed the previous year's Income Tax Return:

How to Apply

- To apply, you must complete and submit a Special Priority Application. Please ensure you upload the completed form to your [MyAccessstoHousingTO](#) account.
- All applicants should fill out sections A, B and C.
- Survivors of domestic abuse must also complete section C, section D and part 2 of section B.
- Survivors of human trafficking must also complete section D and part 1 of section B.
- A professional needs to verify the abuse in section E.
- The Professional or person completing 2.a must submit a Record of Abuse.

After Applying

- Access to Housing will review the application and determine eligibility for the program
- All the applicants will be notified in writing. For those accepted into the program, their date on the waiting list will be reflective of the date all required documents were received to determine eligibility for the program.
- If you were not approved, you can submit additional documents/information to address their ineligibility or request

Subsidized Housing

- Rent-Gearred-to Income (RGI) or subsidized housing is made available by the City to make rent affordable for households. RGI rent is 30 percent of a household's monthly Adjusted Family Net income (AFNI).
- Currently, the number of people in need of subsidized housing is greater than the number of units available.

One-time top up to the Canada Housing Benefit

- This benefit aims to help low-income renters with the cost of renting.
- You may be eligible for one-time payment of \$500 if your income and amount that you pay on rent qualify.
- In 2021, you had family net income of:
 - \$35,000 or less for families
 - \$20,000 or less for individuals
- You can apply online or by phone.
- Applications are open until Friday, March 31, 2023.

Connect with us



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QUESTIONS

