



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) SAJE Rent Supplement Program

### 1. What is the Rent Supplement Program?

The Rent Supplement Program provides \$600-a-month in financial assistance to eligible young adults with care experience between the ages of 19 and 27 who are renting in the private market. Young adults can receive the Rent Supplement for up to 2 years or until their 27<sup>th</sup> birthday, whichever comes first.

The Rent Supplement is not considered income for tax purposes. However, the Rent Supplement is considered a social benefit, and you will receive a T5007 form to include when you file your taxes.

### 2. Am I eligible?

To be eligible you must:

- Be between the ages of 19 and 26 (up to your 27<sup>th</sup> birthday),

AND

- Be renting in the private rental market in B.C.,

AND

- Reached your 19th birthday on a Youth Agreement or Continuing Custody Agreement or under the personal guardianship of a director,

OR

- Achieved permanency (i.e., adoption after being in care, or under section 54.1 or 54.01) between the ages of 12-19,

OR

- Had 24 months of cumulative time in care between the ages of 12-19, in any care status excluding 54.1, 54.01 or adoption,

OR

- Were in a comparable arrangement under Indigenous law.

### 3. How can I apply?

You can apply for a Rent Supplement on the [SAJE Housing webpage](#). Links are posted twice yearly (typically each February and September), and applications are accepted over a two-week period.

If you need help completing the application or have questions, please reach out to your SAJE Guide or Indigenous Child and Family Service Agency worker, or other trusted adult to assist you with the application and the required documents.

Please check the [SAJE Housing webpage](#) regularly for more information or contact a SAJE Guide or MCFD's SAJE Provincial Support Services (SPSS) at [1-866-623-3001](tel:1-866-623-3001) or [MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca) to find out more about the Rent Supplement Program.

Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies (ICFSAs) may also have dedicated workers to assist Indigenous youth with planning for their transition to adulthood and accessing the SAJE program. If you are looking for an ICFSA please visit [Indigenous Child and Family Service Agencies/Delegated Aboriginal Agencies in BC - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

### 4. How is my application assessed?

The number of Rent Supplements available at each intake period varies. To ensure that the most vulnerable young adults are prioritized, applications are sorted based on Indigeneity and self-reported income. Once Indigeneity and income criteria are applied, applications are assessed on a first-come-first-served basis. 50% of the Rent Supplements are first available to Indigenous young adults.

### 5. What is the private rental market?

The private rental market is housing rented to a tenant and not owned by the renter. Rental housing can be any type of housing such as (but not limited to) apartments, condos, duplexes, townhouses, single detached dwellings (houses), etc. You are also eligible to apply if you are living on a B.C. First Nation reserve and pay rent.

Housing that is not in the private rental market includes: subsidized housing or a shareholder living in co-operative housing.

### 6. Can I receive more than one government-funded rent supplement at a time?

No, to receive the MCFD rent supplement you cannot receive a rent supplement from another government source at the same time. However, you may be eligible for other support through MCFD's SAJE program.

## 7. What happens if I move while receiving a Rent Supplement?

If the place you are moving to is still in the private rental market and in B.C., you can continue to receive the Rent Supplement. However, as noted in the declaration on the application form, you must notify MCFD of your updated address within 30 days of moving.

To update your address please email the address change to either [MCFRentSupplements@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCFRentSupplements@gov.bc.ca) or [MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca) or call 1 866 623 3001.

## 8. What happens if I move to housing that is not in the private rental market, such as BC Housing Subsidized Housing, Community Living BC Home Share etc. while receiving a Rent Supplement?

You must notify MCFD within 30 days of moving into non-private rental market or subsidized housing, at which point you will no longer be eligible to receive the rent supplement. If you return to renting in the private rental market and did not previously receive two full years of the rent supplement, you may apply again for a chance to receive the remaining months.

To update your address please email the address change to either [MCFRentSupplements@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCFRentSupplements@gov.bc.ca) or [MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca](mailto:MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca) or call 1 866 623 3001.

## 9. How can I prepare or help someone prepare to submit an application?

The following information will be requested in your application:

- a. Personal information:
  - Birthdate, Social Insurance Number (SIN), contact information.
- b. Demographic information:
  - Indigenous self-identity
  - *Optional information* on racial or ethno-cultural identity, gender identity, abilities, dependent children (i.e., yes/no) etc.; this is optional and will not be used to make any decisions, information is asked to help understand rent supplement access and needs.
- c. Income Information: approximate gross monthly income (no proof of income is required).  
Income includes:
  - any salary, wages, commissions and other remuneration, including gratuities, allowances, and bonuses received by the young adult in exchange for the provision of goods or services. This includes, but is not limited to, income earned through self-employment opportunities or wage replacements, such as Employment Insurance or Worker's Compensation Benefits; and
  - any forms of social assistance, pensions, interest, assets and other earnings (e.g., SAJE Income Support, SAJE Support Agreement, Income Assistance, Disability Assistance).
- d. Rental Information:
  - Rental Address



e. Supporting documentation:

- Proof of Rent:
  - One of the following: Tenancy/Lease Agreement, Notice of Rent Increase, Rent Receipts, Confirmation of Electronic Funds Transfer from applicant to landlord, SDPR Shelter Information form, or [Intent to Rent Form](#).
  - Documents must include the applicant's legal name.
  - Supporting documents can be uploaded online along with the application form or emailed after the fact.
- Completed [Direct Deposit Application](#)
  - You will not be asked to submit this information with your application and will only be asked a completed Direct Deposit Application if you have been approved to receive a rent supplement.
  - If you would like payments to go directly to your landlord, you may include a Direct Deposit Application completed by the landlord.
  - Direct Deposit Applications must be mailed in hard copy (paper copy)

## 10. Am I eligible for a Rent Supplement if I am receiving another SAJE benefit or support?

You CAN receive a Rent Supplement while you are on an:

- Unconditional Income Support (UIS)
- Conditional Income Support (CIS)
- SAJE Support Agreement (SSA)
- Legacy Agreement with a Young Adult (AYA)

You CANNOT receive a Rent Supplement if you are on a:

- SAJE Housing Agreement (SHA)

If you are on a UIS, CIS, SSA, or legacy AYA, you will be required to declare the amount you receive from these supports as part of your income on your Rent Supplement application form, but it will not make you ineligible to receive the Rent Supplement if you meet all other eligibility criteria.

If you are on an SHA, you are not eligible to receive a Rent Supplement because an SHA does not meet the requirement for a young adult to be living in the private rental market. The SHA is an agreement with a Service Provider (e.g., former foster family or out-of-care caregiver) to provide a young adult with a supported living arrangement.