

# CANADA-BC HOUSING BENEFIT (CBCHB) FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Effective Date: March 9, 2021

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1) Who is eligible for the Canada - BC Housing Benefit (CBCHB)?

Young adults must:

- Be participating in the [Agreements with Young Adults](#) (AYA) program or be eligible for the program (transitioned from care at 19 under a Continuing Custody Order or on a Youth Agreement).
- Be paying more than 30% of their income towards rent (or paying more than their shelter allowance on rent if they receive Income Assistance).
- Be currently renting in the private market, not including subsidized or co-op housing.
- Have an income limit of up to \$31,922 to \$44,400, depending on household size.

### 2) How can the CBCHB help young adults with their rent?

- 3) The housing benefit is paid by direct deposit to their bank account by the last business day of each month to contribute to their rent for the next month.

### 4) How should they apply?

There are currently a limited number of these housing benefits available for young adults from care. They should **contact Provincial Centralized Screening at 1-800-663-9122 by March 17, 2021**, if they are interested in this opportunity. After checking and confirming their eligible care status at 19, PCS will provide them with instructions on how to connect with BC Housing to apply for this benefit. BC Housing will then work directly with the young adults to assess their eligibility for the housing benefit and support them with the application process.

### 5) What do they need to provide with their application package?

Applicants must provide government identification, proof of income (pay stub), proof of rent, and their banking information for direct deposit. They do not need to provide their income tax return at this time.

### 6) What is the deadline to apply?

Young adults should contact Provincial Centralized Screening by March 17, 2021. There are a limited number of housing benefits, and they will be provided to eligible young adults on a first-come, first-served basis. Young adults that do not receive a housing benefit at this time will be contacted by BC Housing for future opportunities.

### 7) How can you help young adults from care access this housing benefit?

Reach out as soon as possible to young adults who are participating in the [Agreements with Young Adults](#) (AYA) program or are eligible for the program (transitioned from care at 19 under a

Continuing Custody Order or on a Youth Agreement). Encourage them to contact Provincial Centralized Screening at 1-800-663-9122 as a first step to applying.

**8) How much will young adults receive to help with rent?**

The housing benefit is based on their income and how much of that income they pay towards rent in the private market. If they are on Income Assistance, the housing benefit will be calculated based on the difference between rent paid (subject to maximums) and the shelter allowance from Income Assistance. The minimum benefit is \$25/month.

**9) If the young adult is on AYA, will their AYA funding be reduced if they receive this housing benefit?**

No, there will be no impact to their AYA payment.

**10) How is the housing benefit calculated for young adults on Income Assistance?**

BC Housing will calculate the amount by subtracting the Income Assistance shelter portion (based on household size) from the adjusted rent.

**11) What if young adults already live in subsidized housing or co-op housing? Are they eligible?**

No, they will not be eligible for the Canada - BC Housing Benefit (CBCHB), as these are not considered private market rentals.

**12) How long will the housing benefit last?**

The housing benefit will be paid for one year as long as the young adult remains eligible. BC Housing will send a reminder to reapply for future years.

**13) Do young adults have to reapply every year?**

Yes, to continue receiving the housing benefit, they will be asked to complete a reapplication form once per year before the last month. BC Housing will mail the reapplication form to them approximately three months before it is due.

**14) What if they move to a new location? Will they lose the housing benefit?**

No, the housing benefit is portable, meaning that it can be moved to another eligible residence anywhere in British Columbia during their benefit period, providing that they continue to meet all other eligibility requirements and report the move to a new address to BC Housing.

**15) Do they need to have a bank account?**

Yes, the housing benefit is paid by direct deposit to their bank account by the last business day of each month and contributes to rent paid for the next month. If they do not currently have a bank account, they will need to open one or have the benefit paid directly to their landlord.

**16) Can the benefit be paid directly to their landlord?**

Yes, they just let BC Housing know if they want them to forward the monthly benefit to their landlord. They will provide the young adult with a form to give to their landlord. The landlord will need to complete and forward this to BC Housing with their banking information for payments.

**17) How can friends or family members get help through the Canada - BC Housing Benefit (CBCHB)?**

If you know someone who is looking for assistance with their housing, they can also visit BC Housing's website and use the online [program finder](http://www.bchousing.org/programfinder) at [www.bchousing.org/programfinder](http://www.bchousing.org/programfinder) to see if there are any other programs that they may be eligible for.

**18) Are young adults on Temporary Housing Agreements and Temporary Support Agreements eligible for the housing benefit?**

No. In order to be eligible, they must be currently paying rent in the private rental market from their personal income.