

Rent Assistance Benefit (RAB) Frequently Asked Questions

What is RAB?

Rent Assistance Benefit (RAB) is the name of the program formerly known as Direct Rent Supplement (DRS). It is a long-term benefit designed for low-income households whose qualifying income is below the Household Income Limits (also referred to as Income Thresholds).

How much is RAB?

The benefit amount is the difference between what would be affordable rent (30 per cent of the recipient's total household income or the private housing core shelter rates) and the market rent for the unit, up to the maximum supplement amount. The maximum supplement amount for a 1-bedroom to a 3-bedroom household is \$900. The maximum supplement amount for a 4-bedroom and larger is \$1200.

Who is eligible?

Rent Assistance Benefit (RAB) eligibility is based on the [Social Housing Accommodation Regulation](#). To qualify, you must:

- Be in core housing need.
 - living in inadequate, unsuitable, or unaffordable housing
 - income levels such that they cannot afford suitable housing in their community
 - income levels below thresholds set out by the province
- Have a total asset value of \$25,000 or less.
- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident (except for those who are under a private sponsorship arrangement), convention refugee, an individual who has applied for refugee or immigration status and private sponsorship has broken down.

To be eligible, recipients must live in a self-contained, rented home. This means the home has its own kitchen and bathroom and is not shared with the landlord. For example:

- Detached housing, row/townhouse, duplex or triplex, or apartments or condos with a written tenancy agreement.
- A basement suite or secondary suite.
- Mobile home where the tenant has a written tenancy agreement.

What types of housing are not eligible?

The following housing types do not qualify for the Rent Assistance Benefit:

- Hotels, motels.
- Illegal basement/secondary suites.
- Owned mobile homes requesting supplement for the rent of the pad.
- Shared living accommodations with the landlord or family-owned home.
- Housing owned by the applicant.
- Currently living in Social Housing or receiving other rental supplements.

When will I get the benefit?

Benefits are provided after an application has been submitted and approved. Program funding is limited - not all qualified applicants can be approved.

Applicants who are approved into the program receive their benefits on or before the first day of each month.

How long can I receive benefits?

The eligibility of benefit recipients will be reviewed annually.

If you remain eligible and funding is available, you will continue to receive the benefit.

Who is my landlord?

Your landlord will be the individual or organization with whom you have a tenancy agreement. Calgary Housing (CH) is not the landlord.

Your agreement with CH is only for the Rental Assistance Benefit program.

For more information...

Please email our office at plrs@calgary.ca or call (587) 390-1200 if you have any additional questions about the Rental Assistance Benefit (RAB) program.