

Canada-Nova Scotia Targeted Housing Benefit (CNSTHB) for Renters

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long do I have to fill out the application form and mail all of my required documents to HNS?

- A. Funding for the Renter CNSTHB is subject to annual provincial budget appropriations and compliance with Bilateral Agreement requirements. The application window for the Renter CNSTHB will close when Housing Nova Scotia distributes all available Renter CNSTHBs for each year of the program. For that reason, you should apply as soon as possible. If more funds become available later in a program year, Housing Nova Scotia and Housing Support Workers will start offering benefits again.

Q: If I'm working with a Housing Support Worker, how can I apply?

- A. Housing Support Workers will assist eligible renters to submit an application to Housing Nova Scotia. A letter will be sent to you or your Housing Support Worker by HNS to inform you of the outcome of your application and the funds that you will receive if your application is approved.

Q: Does my landlord need to know that I am receiving the Renter CNSTHB?

- A. No. Since you will receive the benefit directly, your landlord does not need to know you are receiving the Renter CNSTHB.

Q: Can I request that the benefit go directly to my landlord, trustee, or power of attorney?

- A. Yes. You can request that the Renter CNSTHB go directly to your landlord, trustee, or power of attorney.

Q: Will I be removed from the public housing waitlist?

- A. Yes. By accepting the Renter CNSTHB, you will be considered housed and removed from the public housing waitlist. You must also agree to not apply to the public housing waitlist while receiving the Renter CNSTHB.

Q: What if I choose not to receive the Renter CNSTHB?

- A. Declining to apply for the benefit will not impact your placement on the public housing waitlist and will not be counted as a refused offer of housing.

Q: How is my Renter CNSTHB calculated?

- A. The amount of your Renter CNSTHB subsidy is based on
- Household composition
 - Total household income and type of income
 - Average market rents in the location of your rental unit

Q: Will the Renter CNSTHB count towards income when determining my Income Assistance benefit?

- A. No. Your Renter CNSTHB is not counted as income and is an additional benefit that you receive to go towards your rent.

Q: Can my CNSTHB be recovered if I have an IA overpayment?

- A. Yes. If you received a Renter CNSTHB that you are not entitled to, then an over-payment may be calculated. Recovery of an over-payment balance can be arranged on a monthly deduction if you are still eligible or repayment arranged if you are no longer receiving the Renter CNSTHB.

Q: How is the Renter CNSTHB paid?

- A. Each month HNS will send your Renter CNSTHB payments by electronic funds transfer (EFT).

Q: What if my income changes while I receive the Renter CNSTHB?

- A. Each year you must complete a renewal form to confirm you are still eligible to receive the Renter CNSTHB and that you are receiving the correct benefit amount. If your income increases before the date of your annual renewal, the amount of your Renter CNSTHB will remain the same until the date of your next review. If your income decreases more than 10% during the year, you may request a change to your benefit amount – changes are limited to once per year.

Q: What happens if I move?

- A. You must report any changes in personal information, such as a change of address or household composition, your local Housing Authority representative as soon as possible. Since your Renter CNSTHB is based on Average Market Rent (AMR) in the area where you live, if you move to an area with a different AMR or your household size changes, your benefit amount must be recalculated.

Q: What happens if I get evicted?

- A. If you are evicted, you should notify your local Housing Authority representative immediately. You will be given 60 days to find a new unit. During this period, your benefit will be suspended. If you do not find a unit, the benefit will be reallocated.

Q: How long is the benefit for?

- A. The Renter CNSTHB is funded under the National Housing Strategy Bilateral Agreement, which concludes March 31, 2028. Funding for this program is subject to annual provincial budget appropriations and compliance with Bilateral Agreement requirements. You must renew your application each year to continue receiving the Renter CNSTHB.

Q: What happens when the Renter CNSTHB program ends?

- A. The Renter CNSTHB is funded under the National Housing Strategy Bilateral Agreement, which concludes March 31, 2028. Funding for this program is subject to annual provincial budget appropriations and compliance with Bilateral Agreement requirements. You will be contacted 6 months before the program ends and told of any new programs and services that may be available at that time.

Q: What happens if I no longer want to receive the Renter CNSTHB?

- A. If you choose to no longer receive the Renter CNSTHB, your benefit will be terminated. If you wish to apply for a public housing unit, you must complete a new application and submit it to your local Housing Authority.

Q: Can my Renter CNSTHB be terminated?

- A. Yes. The Renter CNSTHB can be terminated if:
- You move out of the province
 - Your income increases or household composition changes making you no longer eligible for the Renter CNSTHB during the annual review process

- HNS finds your benefit should be terminated—for example, if you have been found to have committed or attempted to commit fraud against the Province