

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Q: How long do I have to submit my application form?

- A. Funding for the Renter CNSTHB (“benefit”) is subject to annual provincial budget approval. The application window for this benefit will close once all funds are allocated for each year of the program. For that reason, you should apply as soon as possible.

Q: Once I submit an application, how long will it take to hear if I’ve been approved?

- A. Please note that applications for the Canada-Nova Scotia Targeted Housing benefit program may take between 8 to 12 weeks to review due to the volume of applications received.

Q: I’m receiving help from a Housing Support Worker. How can I apply?

- A. Housing Support Workers will assist eligible renters to submit an application to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing (DMAH). A letter will be sent to you or your Housing Support Worker by DMAH 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 monthly housing allowance under the Renter CNSTHB directly, your landlord does not need to know you are receiving this benefit.

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

- A. Yes, you can request that the benefit go directly to your landlord, trustee, or power of attorney.

Q: If I accept the Renter CNSTHB, will I be removed from the public housing waitlist?

- A. No. You may stay on the Public Housing waitlist while receiving a rent supplement. However, when you are offered a Public Housing unit, you must choose between continuing the rent supplement or accepting the unit. You may not live in Public Housing while receiving a rent supplement.

Q: How is my Renter CNSTHB calculated?

- A. The amount you can receive as a monthly benefit is calculated 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 housing benefit will not be considered as income for the purpose of calculating Income Assistance benefits. This 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 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 a repayment plan can be arranged if you are no longer receiving the benefit.

Q: How is the Renter CNSTHB paid?

A. Each month, DMAH will send your benefit to your bank account using electronic funds transfer (EFT) payments.

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 benefit and to make any adjustment to the amount you receive. If your income increases before the date of your annual renewal, your benefit will remain unchanged until the date of your next review. If your income decreases more than 10% during the year, you can 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 your personal information, such as a change of address or household composition to your local DMAH representative as soon as possible. Since your benefit is partly based on the average market rent (AMR) in the area where you live, the amount you receive could be recalculated if you moved to a different area. Changes to your benefit could also apply if your household size changes.

Q: What happens if I get evicted?

A. If you are evicted, you should notify your local DMAH 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 [CMHC-Nova Scotia Bilateral Agreement](#), which concludes March 31, 2028. Funding for this program is subject to annual provincial budget appropriations and compliance with the Bilateral Agreement requirements. You must renew your application each year to continue receiving the benefit.

Q: What happens when the Renter CNSTHB program ends?

A. The Renter CNSTHB is funded under the National Housing Strategy [CMHC-Nova Scotia Bilateral Agreement](#), which concludes March 31, 2028. Funding for this program is subject to annual provincial budget appropriations and compliance with the Bilateral Agreement requirements. You will be contacted 6 months before the program ends, at which point we will inform you of any new programs that may be available to assist you.

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

A. If you choose to no longer receive the benefit, simply contact your local DMAH office to inform us of your decision. Your benefit will then be terminated.

Q: Can my Renter CNSTHB be terminated by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing?

- A. Yes. DMAH can terminate your benefit under the following circumstances:
- 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.
 - DMAH finds your benefit should be terminated—for example, if you have been found to have committed or attempted to commit fraud against the Province.