

HOUSING MATTERS BC

Rental Supplements

Last year, the Province provided financial assistance to more than 30,300 B.C. households to help make rent in the private market more affordable.

Rental Assistance Program (RAP)

The [Rental Assistance Program](#) provides low-income, working families with cash assistance to help with their monthly rent payments in the private market.

Working families earning up to \$35,000 a year are eligible to receive rental assistance ranging from \$50 up to \$765 per month, depending on the size of their family and location.

In April 2014, the Province enhanced the program, increasing the average monthly payment from approximately \$370 to \$400.

Last year, nearly 10,180 low-income working families in British Columbia received monthly cash assistance to help pay their rent. Approximately 70 per cent of these families are single mothers supporting their children.

Since its inception in 2006, more than 34,800 families have received assistance through the Rental Assistance Program.

Benefits of Rental Supplements

Monthly benefits give low-income households more options, allowing them more flexibility to choose the neighbourhood they want to live in while helping to keep their housing costs within their budget.

Shelter Aid to Elderly Renters (SAFER)

[Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters](#) helps make rent affordable for B.C. seniors with low to moderate incomes.

B.C. residents aged 60 or over and who pay more than 30 per cent of their gross income in rent are eligible to receive rental assistance up to \$825 for a couple.

In 2014 the program was enhanced to better meet the needs of low-income seniors. With the new enhanced benefit, the average monthly payment increased from approximately \$150 to \$175 per month.

BC Housing provides SAFER subsidies to nearly 19,900 senior households renting apartments in the private market, including singles, couples and people sharing a unit.

Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)

Launched in October 2014, the [Homelessness Prevention Program](#) provides rental assistance and support services to people at risk of homelessness.

Eligible participants receive rent supplements to keep their housing costs more affordable and assistance from outreach workers who will connect them with community supports and make sure they remain housed.

The program is currently available in nearly 50 communities.