



Housing Stabilization Fund (HSF) – Q&A's

April 2013

What is the background of the Fund?

In July 2012 the Province announced changes to several homeless prevention and social assistance programs administered by the City, and introduced the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).

Using CHPI funding and consistent with the objectives of that program, the HSF provides resources to prevent evictions and assist OW and ODSP clients to obtain and retain their housing. 2013 is a transition year, and will set the stage for the planning of a longer term strategy for 2014 and beyond.

Is the HSF to replace CSUMB?

No, it is not a replacement for CSUMB which was cancelled by the Province in the 2012 Budget. The last date for CSUMB issuance was December 31, 2012. The HSF was introduced in January 2013.

The City established the HSF which is available to meet the emergency housing needs of Torontonians on social assistance. Eligibility will now include clients in receipt of both OW and ODSP.

What are the objectives of the HSF?

HSF will meet the emergency housing needs of Torontonians on social assistance through:

- Helping to prevent evictions (rental arrears)
- Helping clients obtain and retain housing (last month's rent, energy arrears)
- Helping clients to establish a new residence (essential furniture)
- Helping clients with moving costs

What are the target groups for the HSF?

- Relocation required for those fleeing domestic violence or imminent health hazards
- Clients in imminent danger of eviction
- Clients with energy cost arrears
- Homeless clients relocating to permanent housing from Emergency Shelters or Streets to Homes
- Clients moving to significantly improve their housing stability (e.g. reduced/affordable rent, improved living accommodations)

What are the criteria to issue funds for last month's rent?

The client must be:

- Moving from a Shelter/Hostel, or the street
- Moving because of domestic violence
- Moving because of an imminent health risk
- Moving to significantly improve their housing stability (e.g. reduced rent, improved living accommodations)

What are the maximum amounts of issuance?

Allocations are determined by family composition as follows:

- Singles/Couples can be eligible to receive up to \$1600.00 (\$800.00 for last month's rent, moving costs, rental and energy arrears) (\$800.00 for essential furniture)
- Families with Adult Dependents can be eligible to receive up to \$2000.00 (\$1000.00 for last month's rent, moving costs, rental and energy arrears) (\$1000.00 for essential furniture)
- Families with children can be eligible to receive up to \$3000.00 (\$1500.00 for last month's rent, moving costs, rental and energy arrears) (\$1500.00 for essential furniture)

How is this amount determined?

A budgetary test is used to capture relevant information such as the requested amount, income and assets. These amounts are considered along with family size, allowable assets, and budgetary needs in the calculation.

What are the allowable asset limits?

For all clients/family compositions there is a maximum of \$500.00 in allowable assets.

What type of income is considered in the calculation?

"Actual" income is considered, such as:

Canada Child Tax Benefit

Employment income (except for dependants with part time earnings)

Can a client appeal a decision of ineligibility?

A letter is mailed when a decision of ineligibility is made. Appeals of this decision are to be reviewed by the Office Manager. The outcome of the appeal is conveyed verbally to the client and the ineligibility decision is final at this point, with no further avenue for an appeal.