

Housing First Rent Supplement Program

Tenant Information

Program Description

The Housing First Rent Supplement Program is funded by the City of Hamilton and provides housing allowances to low-income individuals to help them maintain their housing and avoid eviction. This program is central to the vision of Hamilton's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan that *"Everyone has a Home and Home is the Foundation"*.

The program benefits tenants by reducing their monthly rent payment and safeguards the landlord by direct payment of the subsidy. In addition to monthly rent supplements, specially trained housing workers support the landlord and tenant in order to promote positive tenant-landlord relations and respond to any issues that may threaten the tenancy.

Who can access the program?

Clients participating in the Housing First program can apply for access to the program.

How is the program delivered?

Housing First Rent Supports are coordinated by four community agencies including Wesley Urban Ministries, The Good Shepherd, Homeward Bound and the Catholic Children's Aid Society. Potential clients are screened to ensure they are meeting the eligibility criteria for a rent allowance. Rent Allowances are granted to the individual client and paid directly to the landlord. If the tenant moves the subsidy goes with the tenant. Once suitable housing is located, the landlord is contacted and introduced to the Rent Supplement Program.

Your responsibilities in the Rent Supplement Program

- A) All tenants are responsible for paying their portion of the rent directly to their landlord.
- B) Tenants must inform the Hamilton Housing Help Centre of any change of household income as soon as possible so that the subsidy payment to the landlord can be adjusted accordingly.
- C) Tenants must inform the Hamilton Housing Help Centre of any change in address as soon as possible in order to ensure timely payment of rent supplement.
- D) All tenants must sign a rental lease with their landlord and must abide by the rules set out in said lease and in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act.

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Getting Started

To apply for or inquire about the Rent Supplement program, contact one of the following agencies:

- Wesley Urban Ministries | 905-540-4646
- The Good Shepherd | 905-523-8766
- Aboriginal Health Centre | 905-544-4320 x 450

Role of the Hamilton Housing Help Centre

The Housing First Rent Support Program is provided by four community agencies including Wesley Urban Ministries, the Good Shepherd, Homeward Bound and the Catholic Children's Aid Society.

Hamilton Housing Help Centre acts as the broker agency, paying the rental allowances to landlords and property managers through direct deposit or cheque. The Hamilton Housing Help Centre will also act as an information resource for participating landlords.