

Portable Housing Benefit – Special Priority Program (PHB-SPP)

What is it?

The Province of Ontario recently announced that it will be funding a portable housing benefit (PHB) that will eventually support up to about 3,000 households across Ontario. The benefit will be available to any household that is eligible for the Special Priority Housing Category (SPHC).

This new Portable Housing Benefit (PHB):

- Can be used towards the household's current housing or a unit they move in to
- Program is ongoing (permanent) with no end or expiry date
- Eligibly is reviewed each year based on your income tax filing
- Can increase or decrease annually as income and rental rates change
- Can be used for rent anywhere in Ontario
- Is paid directly to the household
- Monthly PHB amount will be calculated based on average monthly rent and adjusted family net income
- Is available now

If approved by the Ministry of Finance to receive this benefit, the household will be considered housed and their application for subsidized housing will be removed from the waiting list.

Funding is available as of July 1, 2018. Applications will continue to be accepted until all allowances are allocated.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible, households must:

- Currently live in Toronto
- Meet Rent-Geared-to-Income eligibility
- Have been approved for the Special Priority Housing Category by Access to Housing (Housing Connections)
- Have established a new address and are permanently separated from the abuser, or are in a shelter, transitional or temporary housing, or reside with their abuser and plan to separate from them

How will we communicate with eligible households?

Applicants that are currently SPP-eligible will receive a letter to inform them of the program within the next week.

Information sessions will be held at Access to Housing (Housing Connections) and staff will be available to help households complete the application form. Applications will be reviewed to determine if basic eligibility criteria are met. Completed applications will be submitted by Access to Housing (Housing Connections) to the Ministry of Finance for review and to activate the housing benefit.

How to apply

If you have a household that may be eligible or if you have questions about the PHB-SPP program, contact Access to Housing (Housing Connections) at:

- 416-397-7400
- hap@toronto.ca
- 176 Elm Street
- or a [Housing Help Centre](#)

For more information please see attached Questions and Answers PDF or visit the City of Toronto's website at:

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/housing-support/rent-geared-to-income-subsidy/priority-categories/portable-housing-benefit-for-special-priority-program-housing-category/>