



## Housing (advocacy, financial supports, accessibility, listings)

### BC Housing

BC Housing is the provincial government agency responsible for the delivery of affordable housing programs to moderate to low-income families, seniors, and those with disabilities.

- Phone: 604-433-2218 OR 1-800-257-7756 (Toll-Free)
- <http://www.bchousing.org/>
- BC Housing youtube videos, including multilingual guides on how to apply for programs listed below: <https://www.youtube.com/user/bchousing1/videos>

### BC Housing Programs include:

- Rental Assistance Program (RAP)

The Rental Assistance Program provides eligible low-income, working families with cash assistance to help with their monthly rent payments. Check RAP's website to see if you are eligible.

- <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance-programs/RAP>

- SAFER (Shelter Aid for Elderly Residents):

The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program helps make rent more affordable for BC seniors with low to moderate incomes. SAFER provides monthly cash payments to subsidize rent for eligible BC residents who are age 60 or over and who pay rent for their homes.

- <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-assistance-programs/SAFER>

- Subsidized Housing
- Supportive Housing for seniors & people with disabilities
- Emergency Housing

Let's Talk Housing

This online public engagement space allows you to provide feedback and ask questions on housing projects and initiatives that are happening in your community.

<https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/>

### Article on how to apply for Subsidized Housing in BC, Here to Help

This 2007 article provides useful information to individuals trying to understand their options for affordable housing, the difference between non-profit, public, and co-op housing, as well as how to apply and what to expect.

- <http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/visions/housing-and-homelessness-vol4/applying-for-subsidized-housing-in-bc>

### BC Rent Banks

Rent banks may be able to offer a one-time crisis grant to people at immediate risk of losing their housing. They work with clients experiencing financial shocks and housing insecurity, and they take a range of approaches to address these issues holistically. In addition to financial assistance to tenants who are unable to pay rent or essential utilities due to an unexpected short-term crisis, they provide support for tenants who are unable to pay damage deposit or first month's rent, and critical supports that can lead to more stabilized and sustainable housing.

- Find a list of Rent Banks in BC to see if there is one operating in your community: <https://bcrentbank.ca/locations/>

### Co-operative Housing Federation of BC (CHF/BC)

CHF/BC is a non-profit housing cooperative which provides good quality, affordable housing and services such as education, consultation, and lobbying. Co-operatives are made up of members; members are those who live in the housing. As a co-op member, you have a say in the decisions that affect your home and you have security – you can live in your home for as long as you wish given you pay rent and follow the co-op rules. CHF/BC does not accept applications and has no knowledge of vacancies – co-ops must be contacted directly. The website does have a comprehensive directory of co-ops and their contact information

- Phone: 604-879-5111 (Vancouver area) OR 1-866-879-5111 (Toll-free)
- E-mail: [info@chf.bc.ca](mailto:info@chf.bc.ca)
- <https://www.chf.bc.ca/find-co-op/>

*\*\*If you are receiving PWD or income assistance, you may be eligible to have the ministry purchase your initial share buy-in (often around 500-1000 which is returned to you when you leave). You would then pay this money back to the ministry after you leave the co-op. Contact a ministry worker for more information.*

### Accessible Housing BC, Spinal Cord Injury BC

Accessible Housing BC is an online classified ad service, brought to you by the Spinal Cord

Injury BC (SCI-BC), intended to connect accessible housing providers with prospective tenants with disabilities in British Columbia.

- <https://sci-bc.ca/marketplace/>

### Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre (TRAC)

TRAC's purpose is to promote the legal protection of residential tenants across British Columbia by providing information, education, support and research on residential tenancy matters.

- Tenant Infoline at 604-255-0546 or 1-800-665-1185
- <http://tenants.bc.ca/>

### Aboriginal Housing Management Association

A list of aboriginal housing programs in BC

- Phone: 604-921-2462
- Toll Free: 1-888-921-2462
- <https://www.ahma-bc.org/aboriginal-housing-providers-list>

### Home Adaptations for Independence

Home Adaptations for Independence helps low-income seniors and people with disabilities finance home modifications for accessible, safe and independent living. Eligible homeowners, renters and landlords can receive up to \$20,000 per home in the form of a forgivable loan.

- Phone: 604-433-2218 OR 1-800-257-7756 (Toll-Free)
- <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/BC-RAHA>

### Home Owner Grant for People with Disabilities

The home owner grant reduces the amount of property taxes you pay each year on your principal residence. If you're a person with a disability, or you live with a relative who has a disability, your property is assessed at \$1,525,000 or less and you meet certain requirements, you may be eligible for the additional grant of \$275 on top of the regular or basic grant of \$570. The total grant amount for people with disabilities is \$845 in the Capital Regional District, Metro Vancouver Regional District and the Fraser Valley. For all other areas of the province, the total grant amount for people with disabilities is \$1,045.

Properties assessed over \$1,525,000 may receive a partial grant. You must pay at least \$100 in property taxes before claiming the home owner grant to help fund services such as road maintenance and police protection.

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/home-owner-grant/person-with-disabilities>

## Seniors Services Society - Housing

Seniors Services Society provides information on housing options for seniors (60+). They have experienced and knowledgeable staff who can provide information that will help you to find appropriate housing. Seniors Services Society is the only non-profit society working specifically with seniors to assist them in finding appropriate housing.

- Phone: 604-520-6621
  - email: [housing@seniorsservicesociety.ca](mailto:housing@seniorsservicesociety.ca)
  - <https://www.seniorsservicesociety.ca/our-services/housing-navigation-information/>
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The contents above are directly from the [Community and Financial Aid Resources in BC](#) guide pages 18 - 20.

A full copy of this resource guide is available at <https://www.mefm.bc.ca/additional-resources>.



Complex Chronic Diseases Program