

# Saskatchewan Housing Benefit

## Supportive Housing & Seeking Safety from Interpersonal Violence Streams

### Questions & Answers

#### What is the Saskatchewan Housing Benefit?

The Saskatchewan Housing Benefit (SHB) is a monthly benefit that helps eligible Saskatchewan renters with their rent and utility costs. The SHB is co-funded by the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan under the National Housing Strategy.

#### What are the two new SHB streams?

- **Supportive Housing Stream:** This stream is available to people living in supportive housing rental units where they receive on-site support services, such as services for mental health, addictions, or behaviour challenges. Clients must reside in eligible supportive housing approved by Saskatchewan Housing Corporation to access this benefit stream.
- **Seeking Safety from Interpersonal Violence (Seeking Safety) Stream:** This stream is available to help people seeking safety from interpersonal violence establish themselves independently in the rental market or in co-operative housing.

#### How are the new streams different from the core SHB program?

Unlike the core SHB program, eligible clients are not required to meet income and asset limits. They may also receive income assistance benefits through the Ministry of Social Services.

In addition, eligible clients for the new streams must be referred by a Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-approved referring organization. Clients must either live in an eligible supportive housing rental unit (Supportive Housing Stream) or be seeking safety from interpersonal violence (Seeking Safety Stream) and entering the private rental market or a housing co-operative.

#### Why is Saskatchewan Housing Corporation introducing the new SHB streams?

The Government of Saskatchewan helps people at risk of homelessness across the province by connecting them with various supports, including rental assistance and housing support services through government and community organizations.

Through its partnership with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and as part of the Saskatchewan Housing Action Plan (2022-23), Saskatchewan Housing Corporation focuses on helping those in greatest need providing affordable and person-centred housing options, and by strengthening partnerships with the housing sector. Expanding

of the availability of the SHB to include people in supportive housing and those seeking safety from interpersonal violence will help some of Saskatchewan’s most vulnerable residents who are at risk of homelessness.

### Who can refer a client to the SHB two new program streams?

Only a Saskatchewan Housing Corporation-approved referring organization can refer a client to SHB through the Supportive Housing or Seeking Safety streams.

### How much will eligible clients receive under the benefit? How long will they receive the benefit?

The monthly benefit amount clients will receive is based on household size:

Single or couple	Single or couple with one dependant	Single or couple with two or more dependants
\$225	\$275	\$325

Clients eligible for the Seeking Safety Stream will receive the benefit for a 12-month period with the possibility to renew for an additional 12 months if they continue to meet eligibility criteria and if funding is available.

Clients eligible for the Supportive Housing Stream will receive the benefit for a 12-month period, as long as they continue to meet eligibility criteria. If the client moves out of eligible housing, the 12-month benefit commitment will end, and clients will receive benefits for a four-month transitional period to help with new housing-related expenses.

When clients are no longer eligible for one of the SHB streams, they may apply for the core SHB program or income assistance programs.

### Can clients receive benefits from the Supportive Housing Stream and the Seeking Safety Stream at the same time?

No. Clients can only receive payments from one benefit stream at a time.

### Can an individual receiving income assistance through the Government of Saskatchewan receive benefits through these new program streams?

Yes. Clients who receive financial support through the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) or the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) programs at the time of their referral, or anytime thereafter, may access one of the benefit streams. **However, if clients or their household members receive the Stabilization Benefit under SIS or the Excess Living Income Benefit under SAID, these income assistance benefits will be impacted.** Clients receiving income assistance through the Government of Saskatchewan are encouraged to contact their Planning and Support Specialist, Assured Income Specialist, or Client Service Centre at 1-866-221-5200 to discuss how the SHB may affect their other benefits.

Individuals and their household members (including dependents) cannot receive the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement (SRHS) and the SHB.

## How will clients receive the SHB?

Clients will receive their payments directly from Saskatchewan Housing Corporation by direct deposit or cheque. Direct deposit payments are made on the last business day prior to the benefit month. Payments made by cheque are mailed by Saskatchewan Housing Corporation on the last business day prior to the end of the month.

## How can I find out more about the SHB and these new program streams?

For more information on SHB, visit the Government of Saskatchewan website. If you have questions about the new SHB streams, contact Saskatchewan Housing Corporation:

**Toll Free:** 1-844-787-4177

**Fax:** 306-798-3110

**Mail:** 11th Floor, 1920 Broad Street, Regina, SK, S4P 3V6

**Website:** <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/housing-and-renting/renting-and-leasing/saskatchewan-housing-benefit>