

# One-Time \$500

CANADA HOUSING BENEFIT

## Information for Newcomers

The one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit aims to help low-income renters who are struggling with the cost of rent.

### Who can apply

If you are new to Canada, you may be eligible for a one-time payment of \$500 if you meet all of the following criteria:

- You (and your spouse or common-law partner, if applicable) filed a 2021 income tax return OR provided your 2021 world income.
- You had an adjusted family net income (AFNI) of \$20,000 or less (individuals) or \$35,000 or less (families) in 2021.

*The Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) AFNI estimator is available on their website.*

- You were at least 15 years of age on December 1, 2022.
- You were a resident of Canada for tax purposes in 2022.
- Your principal residence was located in Canada on December 1, 2022.
- You paid rent for your own principal residence in Canada in the 2022 calendar year.
- You paid at least 30% of your 2021 AFNI on rent for your own principal residence in Canada in 2022.

### Residency status

As part of the eligibility criteria for this benefit, you must have been a resident of Canada for income tax purposes in 2022.

You become a **resident of Canada for income tax purposes** when entering Canada with the intention to reside and establish significant **residential ties** in Canada. You usually establish these ties on the date you arrive in Canada.

You **were** a resident of Canada in 2022 for income tax purposes if all of the following criteria are true:

- Your intention was to settle and carry out your life here.
- You had primary residential ties to Canada – includes spouse, children and a principal residence.
- You had secondary ties to Canada, as well – includes bank account, driver's license, utility service and others.
- You were not considered a resident of another country under a tax treaty Canada has with that country.



To learn more, visit  
[canada.ca/one-time-housing-benefit](https://canada.ca/one-time-housing-benefit)

Canada



You were **not** a resident of Canada in 2022 for income tax purposes if **any** of the following are true:

- You normally, customarily, or routinely lived in another country during 2022 and were **not** considered a resident of Canada.
- You did **not** have significant residential ties to Canada and **any** of the following apply:
  - You lived outside Canada throughout 2022.
  - You stayed in Canada for less than 183 days in 2022.

Information from the CRA about being a newcomer can be found at [Benefits, credits, and taxes for newcomers](#). If you are still unsure, visit the CRA's website to [determine your residency status](#).

## World income

Providing your world income is considered a return of income according to the *Income Tax Act* and is an acceptable method of establishing your AFNI for the purposes of this benefit.

If you became a resident of Canada in 2021 or 2022 and you have not yet submitted your world income, you must do so before applying for this benefit. Here's how:

- If you had children under 18 years of age in 2021, you can [apply for the Canada Child Benefit \(CCB\)](#) and provide your world income using the RC66SCH as part of your application.
- If you did **not** have children under 18 years of age in 2021, you can [apply for the GST/HST Credit and Climate Action Incentive Payment \(RC151\)](#) and provide your world income as part of your application.
- If you already applied for the CCB or the GST/HST credit and only the 2021 world income is missing, you can call the CRA's benefit enquiries service at **1-800-387-1193** to provide your world income.

## How to apply

Given the unique situation you may find yourself in, you can call the CRA at 1-800-282-8072, and an agent will assist you in determining your eligibility for the one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit and completing an application.

You can also apply through [CRA My Account](#) or by using your [My Service Canada Account](#). Payment will be issued faster by registering for direct deposit in CRA My Account.

An [online web form](#) is available if you are unable to sign in to or register for a CRA My Account.

## Impact to other benefits

If you are receiving other benefits in your province or municipality of residence, you may still be eligible.

The one-time top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit **does not** impact other federal benefits, like the Canada Workers Benefit, the Canada Child Benefit, the GST/HST credit, financial supports for government-assisted refugees, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement.

This new federal one-time payment operates separately from the monthly Canada Housing Benefit, which is co-funded and delivered by the provinces and territories.

## Applications close on March 31, 2023.

