

POLICY CHANGE REFLECTS COMPASSIONATE CHOICE

Up until recently, households with any family member under sponsorship have not been eligible to apply for subsidized housing through The Housing Registry. Following a review and consultation with The Housing Registry Council, the policy has been changed to allow otherwise eligible families with sponsored dependent children to apply for assistance. (The policy regarding adults remains the same: no adults in the household can be under private sponsorship.)

The original intention of the policy was that adults under private sponsorship would be ineligible as their sponsor had undertaken to provide for them, including shelter. However, the way it was worded ended up making families with dependent children under sponsorship ineligible as well. The policy change reflects exemptions that were being made on a case-by-case, compassionate basis and brings the policy in line with the practice. It also makes for better transparency as all applicants will be treated equally.

Under the new policy, for instance, Canadian citizens whose children are born abroad, and who are required to sponsor their own children when they move back to Canada, will now be eligible to apply for subsidized housing.

NEW PORTAL HAS POTENTIAL TO STREAMLINE INCOME VERIFICATION

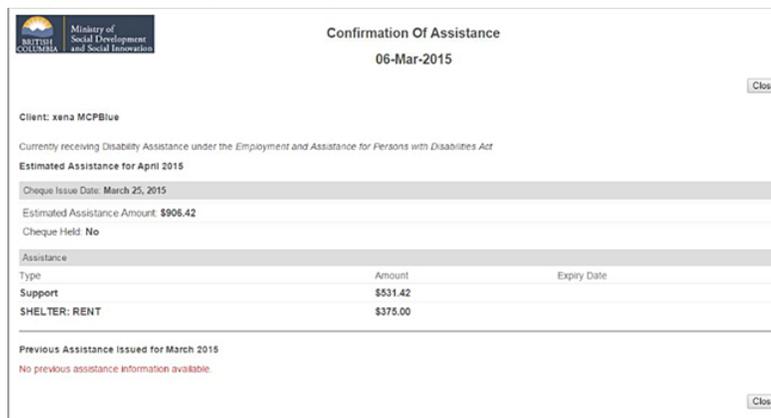
The Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation (MSDSI) has launched an online portal which allows income assistance recipients to create online accounts from which they can print their own Confirmation of Assistance.

What does this mean to housing providers?

This has the potential to streamline the income verification process for applicants and tenants. In the past when proof of income was required and the client didn't have a cheque stub, they had to go to their local ministry office and ask a worker to complete a Confirmation of Assistance form. With this portal, income assistance clients can register online and, once registered, print out their own confirmation. MSDSI contacted BC Housing to request that the printed Confirmation of Assistance be accepted as proof of income for The Housing Registry and all income-tested programs.

MSDSI clients register for an online account through the [My Self Serve](https://myselfserve.gov.bc.ca/) portal at <https://myselfserve.gov.bc.ca/>.

Sample: online Confirmation of assistance.



Confirmation Of Assistance
06-Mar-2015

Client: xena MCPBlue

Currently receiving Disability Assistance under the Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act

Estimated Assistance for April 2015

Cheque Issue Date: March 25, 2015

Estimated Assistance Amount: \$906.42

Cheque Held: No

Assistance	Amount	Expiry Date
Support	\$531.42	
SHELTER: RENT	\$375.00	

Previous Assistance Issued for March 2015
No previous assistance information available

A THANK YOU GOES A LONG WAY

On occasion, The Housing Registry receives thank you notes from applicants.

Thank you for the opportunity to live in an excellent house, city and environment.

Your thoughtfulness is appreciated so much.

Kinsmen Housing in Abbotsford is very nice and we enjoy in parks and wonderful nature. I am so glad that I live here.

Thanks again!

Next council meeting – September 15, 2015

If you have a topic that you would like the council to discuss, please send by email at thehousingregistry@bchousing.org