

# Community Supports in an Emergency

BC Housing works in partnership with private, non-profit and co-operative sectors, provincial health authorities and ministries, other levels of government and community groups to deliver a range of housing solutions. In an emergency, these support programs provide short and long-term solutions to assist residents and communities in British Columbia.

## Support for Individuals and Families

### 1. Rental Subsidies:

- a. Subsidies can be provided to homeowners, renters, seniors, families, and persons with disabilities:
  - i. Rental Assistance Program (RAP): provides a rent supplement to eligible low-income working families renting in the private market to help with their monthly rent payments.
  - ii. Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER): provides a rent supplement to eligible lower income seniors renting in the private market to help with their monthly rent payments.

### 2. Rental Housing:

- a. Subsidized and market rental and co-operative housing, typically unfurnished, may be available for seniors, families or persons with a disability, in communities throughout the province. This is eligible to apply and an applicant is added to the Registry to await the availability of housing.
- b. Private market rental housing landlords can be contacted by a recovery or resiliency centre and asked to advise of any vacant rental space which could be made available to evacuees.

### 3. Emergency Shelter Program:

- a. In some communities, Year-round, Temporary, and Extreme Weather shelters (when a community issues an Extreme Weather Alert based on their Extreme Weather Response Plan during November and March) provide support to vulnerable individuals or families with a diverse range of needs and abilities.

### 4. Homeless Outreach and Homeless Prevention Programs:

- a. In some communities, engage people where they are situated, such as living in public places, in a shelter, or in a temporary location, to help people who experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Maximum income limits apply.
- b. In some communities, provide temporary rental supplement assistance primarily to people who are not able to make the complete payment for their housing needs.

## Support for Communities

### 5. Emergency Lodging Supplies:

- a. BC Housing cots and blankets, stored in various locations around British Columbia, can be deployed and coordinated along with those of other organizations to group lodging locations.

### 6. Building Damage Assessment:

- a. Trained personnel can be coordinated and deployed to assist in assessing buildings impacted by floods or earthquakes.
- b. Training and coordination assistance can be provided to communities and organization to run their own damage assessment program.

Eligibility information and other details about each of these support programs can be found at [www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org).

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## Summary of Support Programs

Eligibility Requirement Summary	Programs		Emergency Shelters	Housing Programs	
	RAP	SAFER	Emergency Shelters	Rental Housing	Indigenous Housing
Receiving Income Assistance	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Eligible	Eligible to apply	Eligible
Receiving Employment Insurance	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Receiving Employment Income	Required	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Receiving pension	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Maximum Income	Maximum Income Limit	Maximum Income Limit	Not Applicable	Maximum Income Limit	Maximum Income Limit
Maximum Assets	Maximum Asset Limit	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Maximum Asset Limit	Maximum Asset Limit
Prior residency in Province	Required One (1) year	Required One (1) year	Not Required	Current BC Resident	Not Required
Age Requirement	Maximum Age of Children 19/25	Minimum Age 60	Varies	Varies	None
Indigenous Ancestry	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Required
Family Size	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable	Applicable
Person with Disability	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required
No permanent address or residence	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Full Eligibility requirements	<a href="http://bchousing.org/rap">bchousing.org/rap</a>	<a href="http://bchousing.org/safer">bchousing.org/safer</a>	<a href="http://bchousing.org/housing-assistance/homelessness-services">bchousing.org/housing-assistance/homelessness-services</a>	<a href="http://bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-housing">bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-housing</a>	<a href="http://bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-housing/indigenous-housing-providers">bchousing.org/housing-assistance/rental-housing/indigenous-housing-providers</a>

This information is intended for quick reference only. For a complete list of the eligibility requirements, additional information and other details of BC Housing supports, please call **604-433-2218** in the Lower Mainland or **1-800-257-7756** in the rest of the province.

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