

National Housing Act

General Principle

Section 56.1 of the *National Housing Act* allows bands to borrow funds from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the construction of rental housing projects. Eligible social assistance recipients who are residing in this type of project may be issued shelter allowance not exceeding the established rent for the home or provincial maximums, whichever is less.

Eligibility

The applicant must provide the administering authority with a copy of a rental agreement with the following information:

- amount of established rent for the home
- address of the home
- start and end date of the rental agreement
- signature of the band housing officer and the applicant or recipient
- list of occupants in the home that includes the name, age, relationship, income source
- the ministerial guaranteed number or CMHC master reference number

The total shelter allowance issued for all eligible shelter costs, including utilities (CMHC rent, heat, hydro, phone, etc.) may not exceed the provincial maximum shelter rates.

Eligible recipients may begin to receive shelter allowances when they take up residence in the housing project.

Under no circumstances is an advance allowance to be issued for any period of time beyond the current month.