

Dear Indigenous Communities in British Columbia,

Renters who have lost income because of the COVID-19 pandemic can now apply for the Province's new Temporary Rental Supplement. Renters living on reserve are eligible for this rental support as long as they meet the eligibility criteria listed below.

This program gives \$300 per month for eligible households with no dependents, and \$500 per month for eligible households with dependents. The temporary rental supplement is available for April, May and June 2020. It will cover part of the rent for low- and moderate-income renters who have lost income as a result of COVID-19. Renters will only have to apply once. If they apply in April, they will get payments for each month over the three-month program. If they apply in May, two payments will be made. The support is paid directly to the landlord.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

A household needs to meet all of the following criteria to qualify for the BC Temporary Rental Supplement (BC-TRS):

1. Have a 2019 household gross income of less than:
  - \$74,150 for singles and couples without dependents
  - \$113,040 for households with dependents
  
2. As a result of COVID-19:
  - Be receiving or eligible for Employment Insurance; or
  - Be receiving or eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit offered by the federal government; or
  - Have experienced, and be able to provide evidence of, a drop of 25% or more in your monthly household employment income.
  
3. Be paying more than 30% of your current household income towards rent.

## **Frequently asked questions about rental situations on reserve lands:**

*Please note: all other eligibility requirements listed above must also be met.*

**I live in a Nation-owned rental building where I pay rent to the First Nation. Am I eligible?**

Yes.

**I live in a Nation-owned rental building and I receive First Nations Income Assistance. Am I eligible?**

No, you are not eligible because First Nations Income Assistance already includes rental support. The Temporary Rental Supplement is for British Columbians who are not already receiving rental support from the government.

**I live in a section 95 home, there is still a mortgage on the home, and I pay rent to the First Nation who pays the mortgage to CMHC. Am I eligible?**

Yes.

**I live in a section 95 home where there is no mortgage, the First Nation rents the home to me. Am I eligible?**

Yes.

**I rent a suite or a home on First Nation reserve lands and I pay rent to the landlord. Am I eligible?**

Yes.

**Can a First Nation apply to the BC-TRS to pay the mortgages on homes under section 95?**

No, the application must come from the individual renter. Details about the application process are below.

**Can an individual homeowner apply on behalf of their renter for BC-TRS?**

No, the application must be started by the renter. Details about the application process are below.

**Can the deposit or cheque go directly to the renter, to be then given to the landlord?**

No, the landlord receives the deposits or cheque directly.

**If I am the landlord and I don't have a bank account, can the money be sent via cheque?**

Yes, but it will take longer.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The application process has two steps:

1. Tenants Start the Application

Tenants must start the online application process at [www.bchousing.org/bctrs](http://www.bchousing.org/bctrs). Landlords cannot apply for their renters. There are documents that renters need to give when they apply. The full list is on the website link above, but other documents can also be submitted.

Renters can provide whatever documents they have that prove who they are, where they live and can support that they have lost income because of COVID-19. Documents need to be uploaded in digital format (PDF, TIFF, JPG, JPEG, and PNG). Examples of document types include driver's license, utility bill, tenancy agreement, rent receipt, notes from landlord (typed/handwritten), T4, EI payment, letter from employer, bank statements, etc. If we need more information, we will contact the renter.

## 2. Landlords Complete the Application

Once the tenant application has been reviewed and assessed as eligible, an email will be sent to the landlord asking them to complete the application process. Once the landlord has completed their part of the application, both the tenant and landlord will receive a final confirmation email.

**For more information about the BC-TRS program and how to apply, please visit [www.bchousing.org/bctrs](http://www.bchousing.org/bctrs), or call 1-877-757-2577.**

**For specific questions about other situations on Indigenous reserve lands, please email [FNtrs@bchousing.org](mailto:FNtrs@bchousing.org).**