



IWK Health

Frequently Asked Housing Questions

A brief guide for health service providers regarding some of the commonly asked housing questions



When people have **affordable, safe and stable** housing, their family life stabilizes, health improves, children's school performance gets better, and immigrants are better able to settle into new communities.



What is Public Housing?

Public housing was established to provide safe, affordable rental housing for eligible low-income families and seniors, and for persons with disabilities, subsidized by public funds

- o Tenants pay an affordable monthly rent based upon gross household income
- o The rent paid is for a fully serviced unit
- o Units are self-contained, and include stove/refrigerator, heat/hot water

Some units are barrier-free and fully accessible for people with physical disabilities.

For more information check out Housing Nova Scotia's FAQ sheet [Public and Rent Supp Q&A -WEB - Mar4 16 FINAL.pdf \(novascotia.ca\)](#).

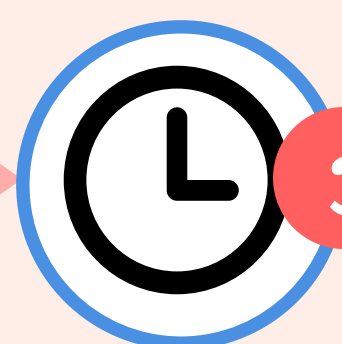


What is the Criteria for Public Housing?

Anyone who meets the criteria can apply for public housing:

- o All household members are legal residents of Canada or landed immigrants;
- o Meet municipal residency requirements;
- o Fall within the set household income limits;
- o For seniors' housing, at least one member of the household is 58-years-old+

Applications are available from your local housing authority office (see details below). Staff will assist you in completing an application in person or answer questions over the telephone. Completed applications can be dropped off, mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the housing authority office.



What are the Wait Times & Priority Access?

The Housing NS waitlist time depends on many factors including applicants' preferred locations to live, readiness to move and the applicant's specific needs. Priority status applicants will be housed sooner. There are specific criteria to be eligible or qualify for priority status.

To apply for this status, there are standard forms and documentation required to verify your situation. Special priority may be given to your application if you are moving to escape family violence living in inadequate housing that causes an immediate health or safety risk, or need to live closer to medical services to maintain life-sustaining support services.



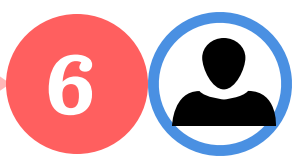
HRM-based supportive organizations?

- [Housing Authorities | Housing Nova Scotia](#)
- [YWCA Halifax | Supportive Housing for Young Mothers \(SHYM\)](#).
- [YWCA Halifax | Women in Supported Housing \(WISH\)](#)
- [Adsum for Women and Children](#)
- [AHANS - Affordable Housing Association Nova Scotia](#)
- [Metro Non-Profit Housing Association](#)
- [Phoenix Youth Programs | Because Youth Matter](#)
- [Alice House for Women and Children](#)
- [Barry House « Mobile Outreach Street Health \(moshhalifax.ca\)](#)
- [Bryony House - Where Hope Live](#)
- [Home - The Marguerite Centre- Women recovering from addiction](#)
- [Tawaak Housing Association \(Urban Native Housing Association\)](#)
- [Akoma \(Afri-centric, trauma informed residential center for ages 3-13\)](#).
- [Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre](#)



What are income assessments?

You are required to declare gross household income (before deductions), from all income sources, for all household members. However, some income sources may not be used to calculate your rent-geared-to income (RGI). The housing authority will make any allowable exclusions and adjustments to your source(s) of income in calculating your rent subsidy. All income used in the calculation is verified by the housing authority. The rent calculation is reviewed with the applicant or tenant annually. Contact the housing authority for further information on allowable income deductions and adjustments.



What is the By-Names-List ?

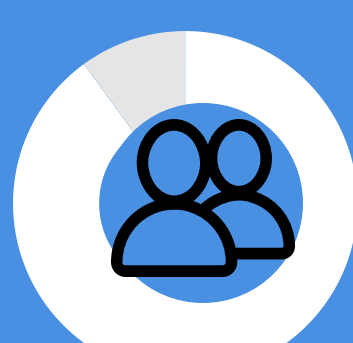
AHANS (Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia) coordinates the By-names-list (BNL) and the community agencies/programs like Adsum, SHYM, WISH all "pull" from the community wide list of people who need housing. They agencies meet regularly to triage who is on the list when they have a space open. This does not include those who are waiting for Metro Housing. There are a number of HUBS who would help people apply for the BNL. This is determined by a set of parameters set out by the terms of coordinated access and also by each individual program. The BNL has hundreds of names on it of people experiencing homelessness and there are only a few residences within our community for supported housing.



What is Adsum for Women & Children

A non-profit with emergency shelter, short and long term housing, programs and services for women, families, youth and gender-diverse persons. The Shelter Diversion program supports single mums/dads and two parent families as long as children are in their care and they are experiencing homelessness. In HRM Please call [\(902\) 423-4443](#) for help.

There is a new Housing Clinic set up on Friday mornings from 10-12 offering phone sessions unless clients do not have access to a phone in which case they can meet in person. The clinic can help to make referrals to the BNL, MRHA, support with power arrears, info on some low-income housing, 30 day housing plans, etc. It is not housing support but is helpful process. The contact number for those in HRM this is 902 423 1687.



Who else can help navigate questions?

Check out 211 by phone or [Homepage - NS 211](#) for more questions on housing, shelters, supports and resources in your area across Nova Scotia

- In the greater Halifax area - Reach out to the [Community Health Teams](#) and request support from a wellness navigator 902-460-4560
- Contact the IWK Social Worker in your department



YWCA Supportive Housing for Young Mothers (SHYM)

SHYM provides supportive housing, parenting support, and life skills development for at risk young single mothers ages 16 to 24. SHYM is open to young mothers in their third trimester of pregnancy or who are independently parenting their child or children, and are in need of supportive housing. SHYM also provides housing for at risk single mothers who are attending a post secondary institution full-time. Make an appointment to complete an intake. Self referrals are always welcome.

Please contact the Program Coordinator for more information at: housing@ywcahalifax.com



YWCA Women In Supportive Housing (WISH) Program

WISH provides safe, secure, supported housing to 34 single women. The women at WISH are 19+ and have experienced homelessness, and have barriers to stable housing. Individuals who identify as women are eligible for WISH if they are: homeless or at risk of homelessness, and in receipt of income assistance. Potential participants also require approval from their income assistance worker to participate, and agree to sign and uphold the housing agreement.

Make an appointment to complete an intake. Once intake is completed and approval granted, the participant is placed on a waiting list until a unit becomes available. Contact the Program coordinator for more information: housing@ywcahalifax.com

Metropolitan Regional Housing Authority
Serving Halifax Regional Municipality
MacDonald Building 2131 Gottingen Street,
5th Floor Halifax, NS B3K 5Z7
24-hour Switchboard: (902) 420-6000
For Applications: (902) 420-6017
Toll Free: (902) 800-565-8859
Fax: (902) 420-6020

Cobequid Housing Authority
Serving Cumberland & Colchester Counties
Amherst office 144 Victoria East Amherst, NS B4H 4B9
Phone: (902) 667-8757 Toll Free: 1-800-934-2445
Fax: (902) 667-1686

NS Housing Authorities

Eastern Mainland Housing Authority Serving
Antigonish, Guysborough & Pictou Counties
7 Campbell's Lane New Glasgow, NS B2H 2H9
Phone: (902) 752-1225
Toll Free: 1-800-933-2101 Fax: (902) 752-1315

Western Regional Housing Authority
Serving the counties of Annapolis, Kings, Hants West, Lunenburg, and Queens Regional
Municipality. Also the Counties of Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne New Minas
25 Kentucky Court New Minas, NS B4N 4N1
Phone: (902) 681-3179 Toll Free: 1-800-441-0447 Fax: (902) 681-0806

Cape Breton Housing Authority
Serving Cape Breton, Richmond, Inverness &
Victoria Counties
18 Dolbin Street, Sydney, NS B1P 6K3
Phone: (902) 539-8520
Toll free: 1-800-565-3135
Fax: (902) 539-0330

For additional resources outside of HRM contact your local housing authority or 211

Local Advocacy Groups

- [Antigonish Affordable Housing Coalition](#)
- [Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now \(ACORN\)](#)
- [Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia](#)
- [Atlantic Policy Congress](#)
- [A Way Home Canada](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives](#)
- [Cape Breton Community Housing Association](#)
- [Doctors Nova Scotia](#)
- [Native Council of Nova Scotia](#)
- [Nova Scotia Action Coalition for Community Wellbeing](#)
- [Immigrant Service Association of Nova Scotia](#)
- [South Shore Housing Action Coalition](#)
- [United Way Halifax](#)