



Community Counselling
& Resource Centre

The Rent Bank

for Peterborough City & County
Managed by The Housing Resource Centre

Fund Purpose and Description

The Rent Bank exists to help low-income people who are homeless or at risk of losing their rental housing by providing one-time financial assistance towards rent arrears. The Housing Resource Centre (HRC), a program of Community Counselling and Resource Centre, manages and administers the fund.

The Rent Bank is a community based, charitable program for low income* residents of Peterborough City and County. Funding is provided through The City and County of Peterborough with funds provided by the Province of Ontario.

How to Apply

Applications are accepted at the Housing Resource Centre during regular business hours. Please call 705-743-9122 for further information or an appointment.

Eligibility

Any lower-income resident of Peterborough City and County who owes rent arrears to their landlord can apply. Eligibility criteria will be strictly observed and all application information will be verified. Statistics Canada Low Income Cut (LICO) will be used to determine eligibility. Each application will be assessed on its own merit. If the application is approved, funds are paid directly to the landlord or service provider.

Criteria Standards & Limitations

The Rent Bank is a means of addressing short-term need to prevent loss of housing and homelessness by providing emergency financial assistance. Decisions on eligibility are made based on the following:

1. All other means of assistance (e.g. Ontario Works and ODSP, and other charitable assistance) must be fully allocated BEFORE Rent Bank funds are granted. It is a fund of last resort. Assistance MAY be denied to applicants who do not access other available funding.
2. Applicants must agree to supply information to verify need, income, assets and expenses to determine eligibility for this funding. Strict confidentiality will apply to this information. It will not be divulged to other organizations without the applicant's written consent, however, this may be required to verify application information.

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3. Rent Bank assistance is available for rent **arrears** only, no more than once in a two-(2) year period. A **maximum** of two (2) months rent arrears can be considered. Rental deposits or monies owing for *damages* to a unit and Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal costs associated with eviction are not eligible for Rent Bank assistance.
4. The Rent Bank funds are given as **grants** and are not repayable. Funds granted under this program are charitable in nature and therefore not deducted from recipients' social assistance income.
5. We strive to maintain the following program standards for rent bank applicants:
 - Timely response within HRC regular business hours
 - Availability to City and County residents
 - Flexibility to unique needs and situations
 - The management of the fund is accountable to sponsors, funders and the community and will provide regular financial reporting.
6. Where applicants have found other sources of financial assistance or are making a contribution themselves, the source and amount of this assistance must be verified.
7. For Applicants already receiving Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) housing subsidy, Rent Bank assistance will not be counted as income but all other forms of assistance must be exhausted before applying to the Rent Bank.
8. Assistance is provided is by voucher or made payable to the housing provider or landlord.
9. In the case of arrears (Rent Bank) assistance, the funding must pay off the full amount of arrears and the landlord must agree to cease eviction proceedings if any have begun.
10. Application for rental arrears (Rent Bank) assistance will take into consideration the applicant's need and ability to sustain their housing costs.
11. Funding will be allocated to eligible applicants according to need and demand. When funds are exhausted the program will close.



The Housing Resource Centre is a *program*
of *Community Counselling & Resource Centre*,

A United Way Member Agency