



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 tenant of Peterborough City and County who *does not* live in an RGI (Rent-Geared-To-Income) unit and owes rent arrears to their landlord can apply. Provincial eligibility criteria is observed and all application information will be verified. Maximum income levels set by the province are 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.

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. **Limited** 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 or Landlord Tenant Board or Sheriff's fees 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
 - 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. Rent Bank funds can only be allocated when all arrears will be paid in full and the landlord agrees to cease eviction proceedings if any have begun.
8. Application for Rent Bank assistance will take into consideration the applicant's need and ability to sustain their housing costs.
9. When funds are exhausted the Rent Bank will close.



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

A United Way Member Agency