



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
February 28, 2022

---

### **2022 Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) Applications for Windsor Essex**

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) is a federal-provincial housing allowance program providing an income-tested, portable housing benefit (PHB) payment to low-income households, and the 2022 program is now accepting applications.

To be considered for a COHB, an individual or a household must have an eligible application with the Central Housing Registry Windsor Essex County (CHR) that indicates interest in receiving a COHB on their application. Once an individual or a household has been/is deemed eligible for the social housing waitlist by the CHR, COHB administrators will connect with eligible applicants on the waitlist to provide information and applications for the COHB. Applying for a COHB is a unique and separate application process from applying to be on the social housing waitlist with the CHR. Completed COHB applications are submitted to the Ministry of Finance for their review; determination of eligibility; and, where deemed eligible, payment processing.

The COHB is a monthly housing subsidy to assist low-income households with the ability to pay housing costs. This funding can assist with housing costs on or after April 1, 2022. Unlike other forms of housing assistance, the COHB is tied to the person or household, rather than the physical housing unit, allowing the benefit to move with the household provincially. Positive outcomes of the COHB program are attaining housing stability through better connections to people and supports, improving household financial well-being and providing a better quality of life.

The Canada Ontario Housing Benefit's purpose locally is to increase the affordability of rental housing for individuals and households in Windsor and Essex County. The City of Windsor has a number of programs and services for individuals and families in Windsor and Essex County who require assistance in obtaining and retaining affordable housing. The extension of this portable housing benefit has the ability to assist a person or a family in their pursuit to attain affordable housing, for which there is significant need in the region. Based on the Canadian Rental Housing Index, households in Windsor Essex spend 24% of their income on rent and utilities; 19% of the households are spending over 50% of their income on rent and utilities; and 8% of renter households live in overcrowded conditions. The COHB is designed to help increase affordability of rental housing for eligible households that are on social housing waiting lists. Approved applicants under this program must consent to being removed from the social housing wait list. The City of Windsor estimates the 2022-23 COHB allocation has the potential to assist approximately 250 to 260 households from Windsor Essex's social housing wait list.

## How you can prepare to access a COHB:

Verify the status of your current Central Housing Registry (CHR) application and/or to make an application and ensuring your application indicates interest in the COHB by contacting the Central Housing Registry (CHR) at:

**Website:** [www.chrwec.com](http://www.chrwec.com) **Email:** [chrwehc@wehc.com](mailto:chrwehc@wehc.com) **Phone:** (519) 254-6994

### Quote:

“The Canada Ontario Housing Benefit will help households in Windsor and Essex County attain housing stability, improve household financial well-being, and enhance quality of life.”

**Debbie Cercone, Executive Director, Housing & Children’s Services, City of Windsor**

### Quick Facts

- In November 2017, the federal government released the National Housing Strategy (NHS), which is a 10-year, \$40-billion plan aimed to increase access to housing.
- Modelled after the NHS program, which originally targeted survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, the COHB will expand target groups to include persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness, Indigenous persons, seniors and people with disabilities.
- With a budget of \$13.2 billion, the National Housing Co-investment Fund (NHCF) gives priority to projects that help those in greatest need, including women and children fleeing family violence, seniors, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, those dealing with mental health and addictions, veterans and young adults.

### Associated Links

- Find out more about this program:
  - [Canada Ontario Housing Benefit – Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation](#)
  - [Governments of Canada and Ontario Sign Canada's First Housing Benefit – Government of Ontario bulletin](#)
  - [Community housing renewal strategy – Government of Ontario](#)
  - [Help Finding Affordable Housing – City of Windsor](#)
- COHB Information (sheet attachment)
- Find out more about the National Housing Strategy: [www.placetocallhome.ca](http://www.placetocallhome.ca)

-30-

### Media Contacts:

Debbie Cercone, Executive Director,  
Housing and Children’s Services- City of  
Windsor  
Tel: (519) 255-5200 ext. 6239  
Email: [dcercone@citywindsor.ca](mailto:dcercone@citywindsor.ca)

Jolayne Susko, Coordinator, Housing  
Administration & Policy - City of Windsor  
Tel: (519) 255-5200 ext. 6278  
Email: [jsusko@citywindsor.ca](mailto:jsusko@citywindsor.ca)

Michelle Coulis, Director Corporate  
Services - Windsor Essex Community

Jill Braidon  
Marketing and Communications Officer

Housing Corporation  
Tel: (519) 254-1681 ext. 3237  
Email: [mcoulis@wechc.com](mailto:mcoulis@wechc.com)

Tel: (226) 347-5608  
Email: [jbraid@citywindsor.ca](mailto:jbraid@citywindsor.ca)