April 9, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE: Provincial Government Renter Subsidy Application Open Today

The [provincial government](#) opened the renter subsidy application process today and clarified eligibility, answering a number of questions UDI had submitted from members.

As renters (and any applicable roommates) must **first apply** for the subsidy paid directly to rental providers, UDI encourages its members to make this information available to tenants. The instructions, including the BC Housing [application portal](#) link, are included.

Program Highlights:
- Subsidy is available April, May and June 2020.
- $300 per month for eligible households with no dependents
- $500 per month for eligible households with dependents. *Eligible roommates may each apply for the supplement.*

Tenant Eligibility:

- Receiving or eligible for Employment Insurance, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or experiencing a 25% reduction in monthly employment income as a result of COVID-19;

- 2019 household income of less than $74,150 for households with no dependents and $113,040 for households with dependents;

- Paying more than 30% of current/reduced gross monthly income towards rent; and

- Not receiving any other rent subsidy from any level of government, including subsidized housing or rent supplements, such as Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) or Rental Assistance Program (RAP).

- Eligible renters who already paid their April rent are still able to receive the rental supplement for this month.

- Subsidy is paid directly to landlords by direct deposit **within approximately seven days after application is processed**. Additional staff are in place to help.

Additional Resources:

For the latest municipal updates related to development at Metro municipalities, please refer to our UDI web page called [COVID-19 Municipal Updates](#).

- [BC Government Renters Subsidy Application Opens](#)
- [BC Government News Release supporting Renters and Rental Providers](#)

TENANT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. See if you are eligible.

2. Tell your landlord you are applying and get their email address.

3. Send your landlord the Landlord Factsheet, and let them know they need to submit the landlord application after you are done with the tenant application.

4. Gather all of the information you need to apply in digital format (PDF, TIFF, JPG, JPEG, and PNG).
   - Proof of address
   - Proof of monthly rent amount
   - Landlord's details and contact information
   - For every household member who is age 19 or older:
     - Identification
     - Proof of 2019 income
     - Proof of 2020 income loss related to COVID-19

5. Complete the Tenant Application online.

6. Landlord gets email from BC Housing with a link to the landlord application.

7. Landlord completes landlord application online.

8. Tenant and landlord get confirmation email from BC Housing.

Credit: BC Housing

- [Greater Vancouver Board of Trade](#) COVID-19 tax relief bulletin
- [B.C.'s COVID Action Plan](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
- [B.C.'s COVID-19 Action Plan helps people and businesses](#)
- B.C. COVID-19 self-assessment tool [found online here](#)
- Latest **non-medical** [COVID-19 updates](#), including travel recommendations, please call or text the provincial government through a newly created hotline at 1-888-268-4319 (1-888-COVID19) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily
- [Latest orders and directives from the provincial health officer](#)
- If you or a family member have symptoms or need medical advice, **call 811**
- For prevention and treatment, visit [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) or follow [@CDCofBC](#)

We will be extending an invitation to a BC Housing or BC Government speaker to provide additional information at an upcoming UDI webinar and will advise our members when a date is confirmed.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns by contacting me at: [AMcMullin@udi.org.](#)

Best regards,

Anne McMullin, President & CEO, UDI