

Meridian Housing Foundation administers Alberta's Rent Assistance Benefit Program (RAB) for the communities of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, and Parkland County. The RAB is a subsidy program paid directly to tenants of private rental homes to help make their rent more affordable.

### Program Highlights

- The amount of subsidy is calculated based on household size, composition, income, and local market rent. The program has a minimum subsidy of \$50 per month and a maximum of \$700 per month for a household who requires a bachelor or 1 bedroom; \$800 per month for a 2 bedroom; and \$900 per month for a household who requires 3 or more bedrooms.
- Households are prioritized based on need as determined by the Alberta Social Housing Accommodation Regulation.
- Recipients must provide regular reporting and eligibility is reassessed annually.

### Do I qualify?

Households must meet the following criteria for RAB eligibility:

- Be in core housing need
- Household Income Limit below local income thresholds set by the Government of Alberta

Municipality	Studio	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Parkland County	\$39,000	\$46,500	\$58,000	\$70,000	\$75,500

*Total income is considered to be the total gross income, including self-employment income, from all sources, of all members of the household 22 years of age and older.*

- Has a total asset value of \$25,000 or less;
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, refugees sponsored by the Government of Canada, or individuals who have applied for refugee or immigration status and for whom private sponsorship has broken down, and
- Have a current lease within the boundaries of one of the following communities: Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Parkland County.
- Live in eligible housing, a self-contained, rented home. This means the home has its own kitchen and bathroom and is not shared with the landlord. It does include:
  - A basement or secondary suite that has been approved by the municipality.
  - Detached housing, row/townhouse, duplex or triplex, or apartments or condos with a lease agreement in place.
  - Mobile home where the tenant is renting the whole unit (pad rent only is not eligible)
  - Co-operatives with a written co-operative agreement.

- MHF does not permit eligible housing accommodation to be owned/lease by a relative of the applicant to maintain program integrity. A relative is defined as parent, stepparent, sibling, spouse, son, daughter, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, parent of current spouse, grandparent.

### ***What is Core Housing Need?***

- A household is in core housing need if they meet one or more of the following:
  - Pay more than 30% of before-tax income on rent,
  - Their housing is in need of major repairs (Ex: defective plumbing or electrical, structural repair needed to floors, walls or ceilings)
  - Their housing does not have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of the residents. Children over the age of 5 may not share a bedroom with someone of a different gender identity.

### ***Does my vehicle count as an asset?***

- The total value of assets must be less than \$25,000. However, the primary vehicle for a household does not count; assets such as RRSPs, RESPs, RRIFs, and TFSAs also do not count. Clothing and tools for work purposes are also exempt.
- Examples of assets that are not exempt are money in regular bank accounts and property owned such as a house or recreational vehicle.

### ***Who makes up my household?***

A household is defined in the Social Housing Accommodation Regulation under section 1(1)(i) as an individual who is applying for or occupying social housing accommodation, including the following, if any:

- The spouse or adult interdependent partners of this applicant or occupant,
- An individual related by blood, adoption, or marriage, or by virtue of an adult interdependent or who is known to have lived regularly as a member of the household as part of the family unit,
- The dependents who are living with the applicants or occupant, including any dependents of whom the applicant or occupant has joint or sole custody,
- A member of the household who is usually a member of the household but is temporarily absent any reason of:
  - Military service
  - Hospitalization
  - Employment
  - School attendance, or
  - Other special circumstances
- A live-in aide