

Eligibility Under SHAR

To be eligible for Community Housing and Rental Assistance Benefit (RAB) programs household must meet certain criteria under Government of Alberta regulation, called the *Social Housing Accommodation Regulation* (SHAR). This information sheet will break down the eligibility requirements listed under SHAR.

(Eligibility for Affordable Housing is based on income only. More information can be found on the Near Market Eligibility Information Sheet.)

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 (e.g.: faulty plumbing or electrical, structural repairs needed).
- Their housing does not have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of the residents.

A household is eligible when their total annual income before taxes is below the Household Income Limits (HILs); HILs is

set by the Government of Alberta and refers to the number of bedrooms required by that household in the municipality where the housing accommodation is located. Children over the age of 5 may not share a bedroom with someone of a different gender identity.

Asset Levels

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 are also exempt.

Examples of assets are that are included are money in regular bank accounts and property owned (such as a house or recreational vehicle).

Citizenship Requirements

All members of a household must have one of the following citizenship statuses:

- Canadian Citizen,
- Permanent Resident (except for those who are under a private sponsorship arrangement),
Convention refugees,
- Individuals who have applied for refugee or immigration status and

private sponsorship has broken down.

- Other special circumstances
- A live-in aide

Who Makes up my Household?

A household is defined in the *Social Housing Accommodation Regulation* 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

High Risk Offenders

As of November 1, 2016 Civida does not require police information checks for applicants.

However, all adult household members are checked against Alberta Justice and Solicitor General's High Risk Offender List.

Civida does not have a residency requirement. This means you do not have to live in the Edmonton area for a certain amount of time before applying for housing or rent supplement.