



Frequently asked Questions
Housing Options Program (HOP)

Who can apply?

- Must be a Lanark County/Town of Smiths Falls resident with an annual income below the Household Income Limits (HILS)
- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Person | 2 Persons | 3-4 Persons | 5+ Persons |
| \$31,000 | \$37,500 | \$43,000 | \$51,500 |
- Household assets must not exceed \$1,000; all liquid assets of the applicant household must be disclosed and verified. Liquid assets which will be required for monthly expenses (rent & utilities) are exempt for this procedure
 - Applications must relate to a housing situation which is sustainable in the long term and housing costs must not exceed 85% of available income
 - Only to be issued if it is going to solve the individual's current shelter problem
 - Must be experiencing high energy arrears that have become an "emergency" that could lead to disconnection, or the household has exhausted their fuel supply and does not have the means to replenish as well as expenses like:

Situation	Criteria	Documentation Required
Hotel / Motel Stay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transient, evicted, released from institution, fire victim, unit temporarily uninhabitable, temporary measure until permanent housing is secured • Must have a plan for post hotel/motel stay • Must be approved prior to client's stay at the hotel/motel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form
Transportation, Bus Ticket, Taxi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transient, relocating for employment or to be with family • Household income below current HILS • Assets below allowable limit (\$1,000) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form • Quote from company stating exact cost of trip • Verification of income & assets • Verification of total accommodation cost
Food / Gas Voucher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No immediate access to food (ie. homeless, fire evacuation, transient, etc.) • Requires gas money for relocation or employment • Household income below current HILS • Assets below allowable limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form
Hoarding / Bedbug Cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification of hoarding from fire department or support agency • Household income below current HILS • Assets below allowable limit • Total accommodation cost must not exceed 85% of total household income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form • Quote from extermination company OR verification of product cost • Verification of income & assets • Verification of total accommodation costs
Wheelchair Ramps / Grab Bars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must require assistive device for medical reason • Household income below current HILS • Assets below allowable limit • Total accommodation cost must not exceed 85% of total household income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form • Verification of assistive device requirement from medical professional • Verification of income and assets • Verification of total accommodation costs

Utility Arrears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be experiencing a crisis that could lead to a disconnection/no heat situation • Total accommodation cost must not exceed 85% of total household income • Household income must be below current HILS • Assets below allowable limit • Must have a plan of how entire utility arrears will be paid (ie, if bill is \$1000 and client unable to pay remaining \$250 HOP should not be issued) • Rental & Utility Deposits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form • Verification of income and assets • Copy of disconnection notice (if applicable) • Verification of total accommodation costs
Rent / Mortgage Arrears	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At risk of being evicted OR at risk of losing home to foreclosure • Total accommodation costs must not exceed 85% of total household income • Household income below current HILS • Assets below allowable limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form • Verification of income and assets • Eviction notice (if applicable) if renter OR letter from mortgage holder regarding arrears • Verification of total accommodation costs
Moving Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be moving due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently homeless - previous eviction - medical reasons • Total accommodation cost must not exceed 85% of total household income • Household income below current HILS • Assets below allowable limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form • Verification of income and assets • Quote from truck rental company • Verification of total accommodation costs at new residence
Rent Deposit Last Month's Rent Only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be moving due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - currently homeless - previous uncontrollable eviction - medical reasons • Total accommodation cost must not exceed 85% of total household income • Household income below current HILS • Assets below allowable limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed HOP Request form • Verification of income and assets • Letter from new landlord indicating first/last months' rent amount, move in date, apartment location • Verification of total accommodation costs at new residence

How do I apply?

- Ontario Works clients **MUST** contact their Caseworker
- Low income applicants contact Social Housing Department

How much money can I get?

You may receive a maximum of \$750.00 once per calendar year.