

Changes to RENT ASSIST, both EIA and non-EIA

June 5, 2017

The following changes to RENT ASSIST comes via Kirsten Bernas from Right to Housing. There will be changes to the amounts people receive at the end of June.

There will be an increase as a result of indexing benefits to Median Market Rents (MMR). But there will also be a decrease for the non-EIA stream as a result of the Province making the decision to change the affordability threshold from 25% to 28% (see below). The non-EIA stream calculates benefits as the difference between 75% of MMR and 25% (soon to be 28%) of the net household income.

The Province has also decided to eliminate the \$20 add on that people in the non-EIA stream received if they were not getting the maximum benefit.

There are about 7,000 non-EIA stream caseloads. It is estimated that about half will get a net increase (those with lower incomes) and half will get a net reduction (those with higher incomes) in benefits at the end of June.

Letters to participants were sent to Canada Post last Wednesday so they will have started to roll in. The Province has had a difficult time communicating this as a result of the by-election.

For tenants who will see a reduction in their benefit at the end of June it's not a lot of time to plan. Questions regarding specific cases should be directed to 204-945-2197 or 1-877-587-6224 (toll free) or email provservic@gov.mb.ca. This info has been provided at the bottom of the letters that were sent out (see below).

The online calculator will be updated as soon as possible after the blackout period.

Families

Employment and Income Assistance Programs
Community Programs and Corporate Services Division
300 - 114 Garry Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4V4
F 204-948-2675
www.manitoba.ca

June 1, 2017

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This letter is to inform you of upcoming changes to the Rent Assist Program for households that do not receive Employment and Income Assistance (EIA).

Effective July 2017, all enrolled households will contribute a set percentage (28 per cent) of their income towards rent.

The income contribution rate for rent subsidy programs in Manitoba remains one of the lowest in Canada.

The maximum benefits for Rent Assist are set at 75 per cent of Median Market Rent. Also, effective in July 2017, benefits will be calculated based only on a household's assessed income and 75 per cent of Median Market Rent.

These changes ensure the Rent Assist program continues to help Manitobans most in need and is financially sustainable.

The adjustment will affect the amount you receive as a benefit based on your income from the previous year and the size of your household.

Should you have questions, please contact the Department of Families in the following ways:

- Phone 204-945-2197 in Winnipeg;
- Phone 1-877-587-6224 toll free; or
- E-mail provservic@gov.mb.ca.

Sincerely,

Catherine Gates
A/ Executive Director