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## HOMEconnection Program

The HOMEconnection Program is up to a one-year bridging program to assist individuals and families of modest means transition to stable, safe, affordable and healthy living arrangements to improve their life circumstances. A temporary rental supplement is provided to allow adequate time to effectively establish plans and take the action needed to move to independent living and achieve positive change.

The aim is to give individuals and families a chance to step up and step out of poverty.

Participants are required to partner with an appropriate community services agency to receive individualized support and assistance throughout the program. This is to ensure participants have the resources and wraparound supports needed to reach their goals. It is expected during this period, participants develop a housing/sustainability plan, and secure gainful income and/or stable revenue to ensure long-term success.

The HOMEconnection Program is funded entirely through donations and charitable fundraising. As such, program capacity is limited to the level of funds raised.

### Program Eligibility

- a) Between 18 and 64 years of age **or** an independent minor with a child, or;
- b) Over age 64 who does not qualify for other programs through Sturgeon Foundation or St. Albert Rental Assistance Program;
- c) Has a regular source of income to pay rent for the duration of the program through any combination of: employment, pension, Income Support and Alberta Works, child support, family member, AISH, Employment Insurance (EI), etc.;
- d) Have no other or unstable financial options to sustain housing;
- e) Does not hold a mortgage; and/or have assets exceeding \$15,000;
- f) Not currently receiving any other rental subsidies;
- g) Agreement to work with a local service agency on developing a long-term housing and sustainability plan, as counseling and follow-up are essential steps of the program;
- h) Household's total annual income must not exceed the Core Needs Income Threshold by more than 15%.

Family Status	Core Needs Threshold 2015	HOMEconnection Program
Individual with no dependents	\$35,000 per year	\$40,250 per year
Couple with no dependents	\$40,500 per year	\$46,575 per year
Couple/individual with 1 dependent	\$51,500 per year	\$59,225 per year
Couple/individual with 2 dependents	\$64,500 per year	\$74,175 per year
Couple/individual with 3 dependents	\$71,000 per year	\$81,650 per year
Couple/individual with 4 dependents	\$74,500 per year	\$85,675 per year

**Due to limited capacity, weighted priority is established based on the following circumstances:**

- Moving from a situation of domestic violence.
- Experienced significant and sudden change in circumstances and experiencing a housing crisis.
- Connections to St. Albert (i.e. work locally, children enrolled in St. Albert school, support network).
- Current and active student with dependent children.
- Single parents with dependent aged children and/or expecting parents.
- Completed provisions of St. Albert Rental Assistance Program (RAP).
- Parents with children under 13 years, employed for more than 28 hours per week in St. Albert, residing outside of St. Albert with a commute more of than 1 hour to work each way.
- Ability to develop and commit to implementing housing and sustainability plan over a two-year period.

**PLEASE NOTE**

Although an applicant may qualify based on the criteria, funding is limited and will therefore be granted based on highest need and priority.

Applications are assessed on an individual basis and priority rated to determine eligibility and determine placement on the waiting list.

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**Rental Supplement Amounts**

The aim is to help reduce a program participant's rental payments to no more than 30% of their gross income. The amount of supplement provided to each participant varies based on individual circumstance; however it is expected the participant will pay at minimum \$525 of their rent, with the St. Albert Housing Society covering the difference.

Tenants must complete an Annual Income Review Form each year. The information is used to ensure that they still qualify for subsidized housing. St. Albert Housing Society will meet with HOMEconnection Program participants approximately four months before their anniversary date to go over the information and status in the HOMEconnection Program.

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**To request an application form please contact:**

**Phone: 780-544-2205**

**Email: [info@stalberthousing.com](mailto:info@stalberthousing.com)**