

## HOUSING STABILITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

### What is Housing Stability Financial Assistance (HSFA)?

HSFA is a fund that provides immediate financial assistance to low-income households to prevent or end homelessness.

### What kinds of costs are eligible?

HSFA may help with:

- Rent or Rent Arrears
- Utility Arrears
- Temporary Accommodations (i.e., motel stay)
- Services and Supplies aimed at attaining or maintaining housing stability (i.e., moving costs, transportation, ID replacement, furniture, utility connection fees/deposits, furniture, storage, food, bed bug removal)
- Other assistance required to prevent homelessness.

### How much assistance is available?

HSFA is a **one-time** emergency financial assistance program based on need. The maximum household amount available is:

- \$1500 for single occupants; and,
- \$3000 for multiple occupants.

### Who is eligible for HSFA assistance?

Applicants must:

1. be homeless or in immediate risk of homelessness.
2. be residents of St. Thomas or Elgin County at the time of applying.
3. meet requirements for residency status in Canada.
4. not exceed maximum household income limits prescribed under the program, as follows:

Maximum Household Income Limits				
Bachelor Unit	1-bedroom unit	2-bedroom unit	3-bedroom unit	4-bedroom unit
\$32,000	\$41,500	\$49,000	\$58,000	\$74,500

For rent arrears, applicants must be legal tenants residing in housing that is appropriate and affordable for their circumstances. An N4 notice or Co-op Schedule is required to verify the amount of the arrears.

HSFA is based on average market rents for St. Thomas, as follows:

<b>Average Market Rents in St. Thomas</b>				
<b>Type</b>	<b>Bachelor</b>	<b>1 bedroom</b>	<b>2 bedroom</b>	<b>3+ bedroom</b>
Apartment	\$646	\$867	\$1,126	\$1,467

For utility arrears, the utility bill must be in the applicant's name. A disconnect notice from the utility company is required.

**How do I apply for HSFA?**

HSFA is administered by:

St. Thomas – Elgin Social Services

230 Talbot St.

St. Thomas, ON

N5P 1B2

519-631-9350

Toll-free 1-800-265-4362