



St. Thomas-Elgin Social Services
Ontario Works | Children's Services | Housing Services



423 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, Ontario, N5P 1C1
 Phone: 519-631-9350 Toll Free: 1-800-265-4362 Fax: 519-637-4250

HeLP (Housing Links for People)
FACTSHEET

What is HeLP?

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

What kinds of costs are eligible?

HeLP assistance will pay for:

- Rent arrears
- Utility arrears
- Up to five days at a local hotel
- Costs to establish a permanent residence (such as transportation, furniture, first or last months' rent, storage, moving, utility connection fees and deposits)
- Assistance with daily living needs (such as food vouchers)
- Other assistance required to prevent homelessness.

How much assistance is available?

The maximum amount of HeLP assistance payable in each 12-month period is:

- \$850 for households with no children
- \$1,500 for households with children.

Who is eligible for HeLP assistance?

Applicants must:

1. be homeless or in immediate danger of losing their housing and therefore at risk of homelessness
2. be residents of the City of St. Thomas or Elgin County
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 |
| \$27,000 | \$34,000 | \$41,500 | \$51,000 | \$71,000 |

For rent arrears, applicants must be legal tenants residing in housing that is safe, permanent, habitable, and affordable for their circumstances. An N4 notice or Co-op Schedule is required to verify the amount of the arrears. Rents may not exceed average market rents for St. Thomas, as follows:

| Average Market Rents in St. Thomas | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Type | Bachelor | 1-bedroom | 2-bedroom | 3-bedroom + |
| Apartment | \$489 | \$687 | \$855 | \$943 |
| Townhouse | N/A | N/A | \$952 | \$1,424 |

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 HeLP?

The HeLP Fund is administered by:

St. Thomas – Elgin Social Services
 423 Talbot St.
 St. Thomas, ON
 N5P 1C1
 519-631-9350
 Toll-free 1-800-265-4362

- For Ontario Works recipients, please contact your Case Worker.
- All other applicants should call 519-631-9350, Option 3, and speak with the Intake Worker.