

# **HOUSING RETENTION PROGRAM**

**October 2020**

A **combined** maximum of \$1,200 for Singles/Couples and \$2,000 for Families in a 24-month period may be available for one or more of the benefits below.

\*Requests should be submitted/received prior to the participant moving into their new residence. We are not able to reimburse and landlords cannot evict if they have permitted someone to move in prior to getting their LMR\*

\*\*Due to the unique circumstances of each individual situation, requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis\*\*

## **Last Month's Rent may be issued where:**

- An individual is establishing a new principal residence upon discharge from an institution;
- An individual or household must move due to health/welfare/safety concerns (including overcrowding);
- An individual or household is facing eviction from an existing residence;
- An individual or household is moving to more affordable accommodations;
- An individual or household is moving out of Simcoe County as a result of full-time employment.

## **First Month's Rent may be issued where:**

- Exceptional circumstances exist for an individual or household and funds requested to pay first month's rent will support access to housing. Funds may be issued in whole or in part.

## **Rent/Mortgage Arrears may be issued where:**

- An individual or household has fallen into arrears due to an unforeseen circumstance and despite their best efforts to meet their monthly requirements they have arrears, have been **issued an N-4** and are **facing eviction**.

## **Utility Arrears may be issued where:**

- An individual or household has been issued a **disconnection notice** of their utilities due to their inability to make regular payments.
- Payment history is reviewed to determine eligibility. Have they been making an attempt to pay?

## **Moving and/or Storage Expenses up to \$600 per lifetime may be issued where:**

- An individual/household has no current residence, including those residing in a shelter;
- An individual/household is at risk of losing household goods due to no current residence.

\*Storage expenses can be paid to a maximum of 3 months\*

# **ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

## **First Month's Rent or Last Month's Rent Eligibility Questions**

- Why are they moving? Must have valid reason.
- Are they moving into/out of municipality?
- Did they have LMR at their last address? Have we paid LMR before? What happened to it if we did?
- Other residents residing there and sharing cost?
- Cost affordable/sustainable?
- **New** - If already moved in we will not assist- we do not reimburse. (This is now a debt with their landlord and they will need to make a payment arrangement. Landlord cannot evict once they have moved in)

## **Rent or Mortgage Arrears Eligibility Questions**

- Why not paying rent/mortgage? – must have legitimate verifiable reason.
- Are their ongoing costs affordable/sustainable?
- Do they have a plan to afford?

## **Utility Arrears or Heating Eligibility Questions**

- Have applicants been making attempts at paying?
- Do they have a valid verifiable reason for not paying?

## **Moving or Storage Eligibility Questions**

- Why are they moving? Must be necessary.
- Why are they paying/need storage? Do they have plan to get belongings out of storage?
- How long have their belongings been in storage (3 months max)?

**Housing Retention Phone Number**

705-722-3132, extension 1833

**Low Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) Phone Number**

1-855-487-5327

**Ontario Electricity Support Program (OESP) Phone Number**

1-855-831-8151