



# Ways to Pay for Rent and Housing

updated March 14, 2025

[Housing Benefits 101: mn.hb101.org/partners.htm](https://mn.hb101.org/partners.htm)

## Types of Programs:

- Income Supplement → person gets extra money for housing and/or housing expenses may be paid on their behalf to a provider
- Moving Costs → funding for housing related items that are not rent
- Project-Based → entire building or part of a building is subsidized
- Voucher → unit is anywhere as long as landlord accepts it

## Bridges Rental Assistance

<b>Type of Program</b>	Voucher
<b>Who is it for</b>	Persons with very low incomes and mental illness. Grant administrators prioritize applicants, and give top priority to persons living in an institution or other segregated setting who will be homeless when discharged.
<b>What does it do</b>	Provides a temporary rent subsidy that is linked with community mental health services until the person gets a permanent rental subsidy.
<b>How do you get it</b>	Contact a <a href="#">Bridges or Bridges RTC Program Contact</a> (follow the link and download the List of Current Grant Administrators). When you know which agency can help you in your area, <a href="#">get their complete contact info</a> .  Must apply for permanent rental subsidy when available.

## Crisis Housing Assistance Program

<b>Type of Program</b>	Income supplement
<b>Who is it for</b>	People with serious mental illness who cannot pay housing related costs because they are paying for treatment or lost their income while in treatment.
<b>What does it do</b>	Covers rent, mortgage, and most utilities (heat, electric, water, sewer, garbage, and some limited phone costs) for three month periods.
<b>How do you get it</b>	<a href="#">Apply online or get a paper application and send it in by email or fax</a>

## Emergency Assistance

<b>Type of Program</b>	Income supplement
<b>Who is it for</b>	A person with low income experiencing a financial emergency. This is usually a one-time help available.
<b>What does it do</b>	Each county covers different services and could be eviction help, utility help, shelter fees, or other.
<b>How do you get it</b>	Contact your local <a href="#">county or tribal human services office</a> .

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- **Emergency General Assistance**

<b>Type of Program</b>	Income supplement
<b>Who is it for</b>	A person who meets General Assistance income level rules (200% of poverty level) with an emergency.
<b>What does it do</b>	Each county covers different services and could be eviction help, utility help, or other.
<b>How do you get it</b>	Contact your local <a href="#">county</a> or <a href="#">tribal human services office</a> .

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### **Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)**

<b>Type of Program</b>	Grant to a provider
<b>Who is it for</b>	Helps individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness who are below 200% of poverty level.
<b>What does it do</b>	Grants to pay rent, mortgage, utilities, or other housing costs that help people maintain or attain housing.
<b>How do you get it</b>	Contact an organization on the <a href="#">FHPAP Provider Contact List</a> .  Temporary program, assistance goes directly to providers

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### **Homework Starts with Home**

<b>Type of Program</b>	Voucher
<b>Who is it for</b>	Families with school aged children, unaccompanied youth, or youth with children in school. People who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness who are below 200% of poverty level.
<b>What does it do</b>	Provides temporary help to find and keep housing, including for security deposit, rent, utilities, and with applications.
<b>How do you get it</b>	Use the <a href="#">Homework Starts with Home Contacts List</a> .  Temporary program, assistance goes directly to providers

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### **Housing Support – Group Settings**

<b>Type of Program</b>	Income Supplement
<b>Who is it for</b>	People with very low income with a disability or disabling condition
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays room and board in a place where a provider is authorized to accept Housing Support. Payment goes to the provider not to the person. Sometimes pays for additional supports.
<b>How do you get it</b>	Apply through a <a href="#">county</a> or <a href="#">tribal human services office</a> .

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## Housing Support – Community Based

<b>Type of Program</b>	Income Supplement
<b>Who is it for</b>	People with very low income with a disability or disabling condition
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays for rent, utilizes and other related expenses for a person with their own lease in the community. Payment goes to the provider. Sometimes pays for additional supports.
<b>How do you get it</b>	Apply through a <a href="#">county or tribal human services office</a> .

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## Housing Trust Fund Rental Assistance

<b>Type of Program</b>	Voucher and Project-Based
<b>Who is it for</b>	Depends on the agency and could be for: long-term homeless, extremely low income, have HIV/AIDS, have chemical dependencies or mental illness
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays for privately owned rental housing
<b>How do you get it</b>	Contact the Coordinated Entry (CE) system in each Continuum of Care (CoC) region.

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## MA-Waivers ([CADI](#), [CAC](#), [BI](#), [DD](#) and [EW](#)) Transitional Services

<b>Type of Program</b>	Moving Costs
<b>Who is it for</b>	People on an MA-Waiver who want to move to a more independent setting
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays for expenses (furniture, moving expenses, deposits, etc.) related to transition
<b>How do you get it</b>	Apply through a <a href="#">county or tribal human services office</a>

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## MFIP Housing Assistance

<b>Type of Program</b>	Cash grant
<b>Who is it for</b>	People eligible for MFIP not receiving another housing subsidy
<b>What does it do</b>	Provides \$110 for housing
<b>How do you get it</b>	Apply through a <a href="#">county or tribal human services office</a>

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## Minnesota Supplemental Aid (MSA) Housing Assistance

<b>Type of Program</b>	Income Supplement
<b>Who is it for</b>	People on SSI who are eligible for MSA and spend at least 40% of their income on housing
<b>What does it do</b>	Provides up to half the SSI benefit rate a month to help pay for housing costs
<b>How do you get it</b>	Apply through a <a href="#">county or tribal human services office</a>

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## Moving Home Minnesota Transitional Services

<b>Type of Program</b>	Moving Costs
<b>Who is it for</b>	People on MA who want to move from an institutional setting into a community-based setting
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays for expenses (furniture, moving expenses, deposits, etc.) related to transition
<b>How do you get it</b>	Obtain a referral from a <a href="#">county or tribal human services office</a>

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## Public Housing

<b>Type of Program</b>	Project-Based
<b>Who is it for</b>	People who are low-income, families, seniors, and people with disabilities
<b>What does it do</b>	Rental housing, managed by a public housing authority, where rent is based on a person's income
<b>How do you get it</b>	Contact a <a href="#">local housing authority</a> .

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## Section 8 Family Unification Program

<b>Type of Program</b>	Voucher
<b>Who is it for</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Families at risk of being separated due to lack of housing</li><li>• Former foster youth ages 18 – 21</li></ul>
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays rent where a landlord will accept it as a form of payment
<b>How do you get it</b>	Referred to one of 6 public housing authorities that have the program by your local <a href="#">county or tribal human services office</a> . Each housing authority has its own application.

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## Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (including Section 811 Voucher and Non-Elderly Disabled [NED] Voucher)

<b>Type of Program</b>	Vouchers
<b>Who is it for</b>	People who are low-income, families, seniors, and people with disabilities
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays part of the rent to a private landlord; person must find a landlord willing to accept it
<b>How do you get it</b>	Contact a <a href="#">local housing authority</a> .

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## Section 8 Project-Based Voucher Program

<b>Type of Program</b>	Project-Based
<b>Who is it for</b>	People who are low-income, families, seniors, and people with disabilities
<b>What does it do</b>	Same as the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program, except all the vouchers are in the same building or project
<b>How do you get it</b>	Contact a <a href="#">local housing authority</a> . Properties are listed on the <a href="#">HUD Resource Locator site</a> .

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## Section 811 (managed by the Department of Human Services)

<b>Type of Program</b>	Project-Based
<b>Who is it for</b>	People who have a disability and extremely low incomes, and who are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Experiencing Long Term Homelessness and Serious Mental Illness and are working with a Project to Assist with Transitions from Homelessness Outreach worker</li><li>• Persons exiting institutions and enrolled in Moving Home Minnesota</li></ul>
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays rent of the rent in select apartments in participating properties
<b>How do you get it</b>	Referrals are only accepted from select homeless outreach providers or MHM transition workers. These providers are notified when vacancies occur, or new applicants can be added to the waiting list.

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## Section 811 Capital Advance Funding

<b>Type of Program</b>	Project-Based
<b>Who is it for</b>	People who have a disability and low incomes
<b>What does it do</b>	Pays rent in certain Accessible Space, Inc. buildings that were built using Section 811 HUD funding
<b>How do you get it</b>	Find affordable housing at <a href="#">Accessible Space</a>