



PRESS RELEASE



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Financial Assistance Available from CMHC for Rental Housing Repair

TORONTO, Ontario, May 25, 2006 — Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is opening a call for applications for financial assistance for renovation of rental and rooming house properties and family violence shelters in Ontario. The deadline for applications is July 7, 2006.

The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) has helped communities preserve affordable housing stock since 1973. It was developed to help low-income Canadians, including people with disabilities and Aboriginal peoples, to live in safe, affordable homes.

Approximately \$9.5 million will be allocated in 2006/2007 in Ontario for the rental, rooming house and conversion components of the RRAP. Under the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP), approximately \$3 million will be allocated.

"CMHC is working to ensure Canadians have adequate, safe and affordable housing. People want to feel secure in their homes, and with RRAP we help ensure that their homes meet basic health and safety standards," said Peter Friedmann, General Manager, Ontario Business Centre, CMHC.

"The Shelter Enhancement Program helps give those most in need an opportunity to build a better and safer life for themselves."

The Rental and Rooming House RRAP and RRAP Conversion provide landlords with financial assistance to repair a rental or rooming house property to a minimum level of health and safety, or to convert non-residential properties into affordable rental or rooming house accommodation. Rents must be at or below eligible levels and the tenants of the dwellings must be low income.

Funds are also available to assist in the creation of affordable, self-contained secondary suites or garden suites for low-income seniors or disabled adults. Homeowners and private entrepreneurs owning residential properties in Ontario can apply for funding. Eligibility is limited to existing family housing residential properties.

CMHC's Shelter Enhancement Program provides funding to repair or rehabilitate existing shelters for victims of family violence. Funding is also provided for acquiring or building new shelters where needed.

Applications are currently being accepted, and must be received no later than July 7, 2006 by 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). For more information about the program or to obtain an application, call 1-800-704-6488 or e-mail rrap_Ontario@cmhc-schl.gc.ca.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for over 60 years. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country. For more information call 1-800-668-2642.

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For further information, please contact:

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Backgrounder

CMHC Renovation Programs

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) suite of renovation programs, including the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), help improve the quality of affordable housing for low-income Canadians. These renovation programs provide financial assistance to homeowners and landlords for repairs, renovations, accessibility modifications and home adaptations as well as provide financial assistance to create low-income rental units, and more recently, secondary and garden suites.

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Programs:

- **Rental and Rooming House:** offers financial assistance to owners of rental or rooming house units which are substandard, in order to rehabilitate the property to a minimum level of health and safety. Landlords may receive up to \$24,000 for each self-contained rental unit or \$16,000 for each rooming house bed unit. Recent enhancements to the Rental RRAP program permit the creation of secondary suites and garden suites for low-income seniors and disabled adults.
- **Conversion:** offers financial assistance to convert non-residential properties into affordable self-contained rental housing units and/or bed units. Landlords may receive up to \$24,000 for each self-contained rental unit created or \$16,000 for each rooming house bed unit.
- **Persons with Disabilities:** offers financial assistance to allow homeowners and landlords to improve their dwellings so that they are more accessible to low-income persons with disabilities. Landlords may receive up to \$24,000 for each self-contained rental unit or \$16,000 for each rooming house bed unit. Homeowners may receive up to \$16,000.
- **Homeowner:** offers financial assistance to low-income homeowners to repair their homes. The program is aimed at people who live in substandard dwellings and cannot afford repairs necessary to make their homes safe and healthy. Homeowners may receive up to \$16,000.

Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP): provides funding to organizations to assist in repairing, rehabilitating and improving existing shelters for women and their children, youth and men who are victims of family violence; and in acquiring or building new shelters and second-stage housing where needed. For newly developed projects, CMHC may contribute up to 100 per cent of a project's capital cost. Up to \$24,000 per unit or bed unit is available to improve existing shelters.

Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence (HASI): provides financial assistance to homeowners and landlords for home adaptations to extend the time that low-income seniors can live in their own home independently. Homeowners and landlords may receive up to \$3,500 to cover the cost of minor home adaptations.

Emergency Repair Program (ERP): assists low-income homeowners or occupants in rural areas to undertake emergency repairs required for the continued safe occupancy of their houses. Up to \$6,000 per unit is available.

Higher assistance levels may be available for properties located in more northern and remote areas of the province.

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Applications for the **Homeowner RRAP, RRAP for Persons with Disabilities, Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence** and **Emergency Repair Program** can be submitted at any time.