



SNARP

Squamish Nation Assistance with Rent Program

Application Program Requirements

2023 – 2024

This package is to provide information for year 3 of the rental housing subsidy program for the benefit of the Squamish Nation community.

SNARP provides eligible Squamish Nation market tenants with a temporary monthly rent support payment for up to one year.

Find out if you are eligible at
snarp@hiyamhousing.com
604-210-9126

Squamish Nation Assistance with Rent Program (SNARP)

To support our community affected by the health and housing crisis, the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw Council funded the Squamish Nation Assistance with Rent Program (SNARP) for the upcoming year, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. This program is part of an overall affordable housing strategy to benefit the Squamish community.

Administered by Hi'yám ta Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Housing Society (Hi'yám Housing), this pilot program will provide Squamish Nation tenants with a monthly rent support payment for up to one year, paid directly to the eligible renter.

The supplement is designed to help low and moderate-income members facing financial hardship due to unaffordable rental rates. Those currently living in housing with rent subsidized by any level of Government will not qualify for this program.

Program Objectives

1. To support Squamish Nation Members paying unaffordable market rents;
2. To assist those who live away from the community and cannot access services on reserve;
3. To support our women, children, and families who are fleeing violence; Our slhenlhána'y (women) and ménmen (children) are sacred to us. Inclusive to LGBTQAI2S+ (Two-Spirited) people;
4. To financially support our vulnerable populations; Elders (55+) and people with disabilities;
5. To provide needs-based, targeted temporary relief for a portion of the rent for Squamish Nation renters that considers the diverse needs of household size and income levels.

Goals and Commitments

Our strategic priority is to “house every Squamish member within a generation.” We define a generation as 25 years.

We are committed to equality and equity for all members in age, sex, geographic residence, gender identity, religious or spiritual beliefs, and physical ability.

Squamish Nation is committed to advancing and implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the Missing and Murdered Women’s Inquiry Calls for Justice, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people.

SNARP Background

- Hiyám ta Skwxwú7mesh Housing Society (Hiyám Housing) is an incorporated non-profit society that was formed by the Squamish Nation Council (Council);
- The Squamish Nation is developing programs that provide housing security for Squamish Nation members;
- The Squamish Nation is experiencing a housing crisis without the means to provide adequate and secure affordable housing options for Squamish Nation members currently, although efforts are underway to provide new housing options in the coming years;
- The Nation is developing long-term programs that provide housing security for Squamish Nation community, on- and off-reserve;
- This pilot program would provide a rent subsidy to an eligible member/renter in the private market to assist with the high cost of rent;
- April 1st, 2021, Council passed a Motion to fund and develop SNARP in response to the health and housing crisis.
- In 2023 there is a funding surplus that enables a callout for additional applicants.

SNARP Policy and Procedures

1. Rent Support Amounts

To provide temporary rental assistance every month to Squamish Nation renters in the amount of:

- a) Single person or couple \$250
- b) Single parent or family with one child or dependent \$500
- c) Single parent or family with two or more children or dependents \$750

2. Target Populations

- a) Squamish Nation renters who are paying market rates anywhere
- b) Renters who are single, living on their own, with dependents or in multigenerational households

3. Priority Groups

- a) Rental Supplements will support Squamish women, and children fleeing violence. This category is inclusive to LGBTQAI2S+ Squamish Nation members who may be experiencing or fleeing violence and abuse
- b) Rental Supplements will support Squamish Nation Elders (55+)
- c) Rental Supplements will support Squamish People with Disabilities

4. Eligibility Procedure Requirements

Applicants must:

- a) Be renting in the private market and paying a market rate
- b) Meet the annual gross household income threshold
- c) Be renting at a market rate anywhere, including outside of the province, country,

on- and off-reserve;

- d) Provide a copy of tenancy and landlord information
- e) Not in other subsidized housing or receiving similar rent relief payments
- f) Your previous calendar year household income must be less than \$85,000 for households without dependents and \$125,000 for households with dependents
- g) Not receiving any other rent subsidy from the Nation or any level of government, including subsidized housing or rent supplements, such as Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) or the Rental Assistance Program (RAP)

5. Application Procedure

- a) Renewal applications will be sent out in April of each year
- b) For SNARP Surplus applicants, eligibility will be based on available funding
- c) Rent Supplement payments start mid-July of each year for 12 months
- d) Applicants must have all required documents and photos prepared and sent in
- e) Hi'yám Housing will be using lottery selection to select supplement receivers, if applicable

6. Payment Procedure

- a) The SNARP Program is a temporary program based on available funding, and renters will need to reapply for the rent assistance funds again the following year
- b) The 2023 SNARP Surplus Program has 2 funding pools:
 - i. Funding Pool 1: Adding additional recipients to the regular SNARP**
 - ii. Funding Pool 2: One-year SNARP funding for 2023-2024**
- c) Direct payment is available to eligible members if they have signed up for EFT payments
- d) Rent supports will be made in Canadian Dollars

7. Application Requirement Procedure

- a) Proof of address: driver's license, utility bill, pay stub, or mailed items addressed to the tenant at the rental address
- b) Proof of monthly rent amount: a signed tenancy agreement, or rent receipt (must include the date, address, amount, landlord, and tenant name), or notice of rent increase. Each document must be dated within the last 12 months
- c) Landlord's details and contact information, including email address
- d) Proof of Income: Must include all household member(s) who are over the age of 19:
 - I. Identification, such as a driver's license, status card, passport, or BC identification card
 - II. Proof of previous year income (Notice of Assessment from all household residents over age of 19)
 - III. If you are providing proof of tax-free income, then you must submit T-slips as well. (as these do not show up on the Notice of Assessment)
- e) Rental Confirmation: Landlords may be asked to confirm details provided about the tenancy, including rental address and monthly rent amount.
- f) Hi'yám Housing may follow up with the tenant's application to ensure all information is true and correct.
- g) Hi'yám Housing may ask for personal bank statements and further tax information to verify income

8. Lottery Selection Procedure

The SNARP Lottery Section will be as follows, if applicable:

- a) Hi'yám Housing staff review all the applications for eligibility
- b) If there are questions about the application, we will reach out and ask for a response with a required timeframe
- c) Applications that are not eligible will be notified
- d) Applications that are eligible will be notified and given a lottery reference number before the lottery is held
- e) Staff will sort through the applications into different categories and target populations
- f) Once we have sorted, we will conduct the lottery virtually on reliable software
- g) Ability to attend the lottery drawings virtually
- h) Staff will draw applicants' names for each category separately
- i) Hi'yám Housing will review the list again and select and notify the chosen applicants

9. Household Eligibility

- a) The main applicant must be a registered Squamish Nation member
- b) Family means a core household is an applicant, spouse (if applicable), and dependent children
- c) Family is defined as a minimum of two people, including one dependent child that lives with you at least 50 percent of the time
- d) Dependent means an unmarried child, stepchild, adopted child, or legal ward, mainly supported by the applicant, who is:
Under 19 years of age; or
 - I. Under 25 years of age and registered in full-time school, university, or vocational institute which provides a recognized diploma, certificate, or degree; or
 - II. Of any age who, because of mental or physical infirmity, is accepted as a dependent for income tax purposes
 - III. Senior – Defined as a single person aged 55 and older, who is physically or financially dependent on you
 - IV. People with disabilities – Those who can live independently and are in receipt of a recognized disability pension or are considered disabled for income tax purposes

10. SNARP Conditions

- a) Must sign application verifying all information is true and accurate
- b) The application will serve as the agreement for SNARP subsidy
- c) Hi'yám Housing staff may follow up at a later time to verify eligibility. If we find that the information provided is inaccurate, we may terminate or adjust the payments
- d) If market rental housing situation changes and the tenant is receiving similar rental support or moving into subsidized housing, tenants are required to notify Hi'yám Housing that they are no longer eligible for this rent support
- e) If the subsidy holder breaks the terms of the agreement, they could lose their "good standing" status which could have implications on their ability to access

services with Hi'yám Housing or the Nation

- f) If you move, you must notify Hi'yám Housing. The subsidy can move locations; however, you must still meet all the requirements to continue to be eligible
- g) Rent support amounts are determined during the time of application or application renewal and will remain at that rate for the entire funding year unless there are inaccuracies. Requests for increases will not be considered after funding determinations have been set