



Housing Support Products

Information for community and iwi partners about financial help available to whānau for one-off housing and accommodation costs.

Alongside our community and iwi partners, we want to support people to have a place to call home.

Community housing advocates told us people need financial support to stay in their homes or move into stable longer-term housing. We've improved how we support low and middle-income households, including students and people over 65 years, to get into and stay in the rental market.

We've increased maximum payments and the number of times a payment can be made for grants like Bond, Rent in Advance and Rent Arrears. More people will be able to access these financial supports. People don't need to be on a benefit to get help.

It's important people act early before they get into hardship. Early financial assistance will lead to better outcomes for households and communities.

Everyone's situation is different and we're always happy to talk things through.

Changes from 13 March 2023

Bond Grant

A payment towards the cost of a bond for a tenancy for people who can't meet this cost themselves

New policy

All eligible people:

Maximum grant: 4 weeks actual rent (no \$ limit), so long as the person can afford the weekly rent

Entitlement: twice in a 52-week period for individuals and couples, unless exceptional circumstances exist

Payment: must be paid back



Rent in Advance Grant

A payment towards the cost of rent in advance at the start of a tenancy for people who can't meet this cost themselves

New policy

All eligible people:

Maximum grant: 2 weeks actual rent (no \$ limit), so long as the person can afford the weekly rent

Entitlement: twice in a 52-week period for individuals and couples, unless exceptional circumstances exist

Payment: must be paid back

Rent Arrears Grant

A payment towards the cost of overdue rent for people who are at risk of losing their tenancy and can't meet this cost themselves

New policy

All eligible people:

Maximum grant: 4 weeks actual rent (no \$ limit), so long as the person can afford the weekly rent

Entitlement: twice in a 52-week period for individuals and couples, unless exceptional circumstances exist

Payment: no change (must be paid back)

Moving Costs Grant

Payment to help with the costs of physically moving household belongings into a new tenancy (from their old house or elsewhere) for people who can't meet this cost themselves

New policy

Maximum grant: \$1,500 unless exceptional circumstances exist

Entitlement: twice in a 52-week period for individuals and couples. Up to \$1,500 total in a 52-week period. If you get \$1,500 for the first grant you are not entitled to another unless exceptional circumstances exist

Payment: no change (must be paid back)

Transition to Alternative Housing Grant

A one-off payment to encourage people who are able to move out of public housing and into a private rental

New policy

Maximum: no change (\$3,000 one-off payment)

Entitlement: one grant per person in their lifetime, divided equally between the eligible tenants, if more than one tenant. Minor change to entitlement so eligibility is based on individual circumstances. This means that if one or more tenants have received this grant before, the other tenants are still eligible, so long as the whole household is moving out of public housing

Payment: no change (does not need to be paid back)



Tenancy Costs Cover

Assurance given to landlords who let their property to an eligible person. If that person owes the landlord for costs at the end of the tenancy (over and above the bond), we'll contribute to those outstanding costs (up to a maximum amount)

New policy

Maximum: no change (4 weeks of a person's rent, calculated based on the rent at the start of the tenancy)

Entitlement: payment of Tenancy Costs Cover up to twice in a 52-week period for individuals and couples, unless exceptional circumstances exist

Duration of cover: up to 24 months

Payment: no change (must be paid back)

Income and asset limits

The income limits for Bond Grant, Rent in Advance Grant, Moving Costs Grant and Rent Arrears Grant are listed in the table below.

From 13 March 2023, NZ Super and Veteran's Pension payments are included as income.

Situation	Gross weekly income limit
Single, 16+ years	\$1,270
Couple, without children	\$1,866
Couple, with children	\$2,189
Sole parent, 1 child	\$1,730
Sole parent, 2+ children	\$2,010

The asset limits remain the same:

Situation	Gross weekly income limit
Single person	\$8,100
Married, civil union or de facto couple, or sole parent	\$16,200



What you need to know

What whānau need to bring or have with them when they apply

All people applying need to have:

- proof of identification
- proof of their income and assets
- proof of the expenses they're facing (like moving costs, or rent arrears)
- tenancy agreement.

Recoverability – paying us back

We'll only grant Housing Support Products if people can afford to regularly pay the rent and live at the property.

They need to be paid back, except for the Transition to Alternative Housing Grant.

If people are having trouble paying us back, they can talk to us. We may be able to reduce repayments, provide extra support or refer them to someone who can help.

Other ways we help

If people are struggling to pay the bills, they can talk to us. There's a range of help available.

Call us on:

0800 559 009 Working age people

0800 552 002 Seniors

0800 88 99 00 Students

People receiving Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment please contact your Youth Coach directly

Help to find work

We help people find a job or help them get the skills they need to find work. We also provide on-the-job support and may be able to help with the costs of starting work. This includes people who want to start their own business.

**For more information go to workandincome.govt.nz
or call our Job Search line 0800 779 009**

