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# **SNARP**

## **Squamish Nation Assistance with Rent Program**

### **Temporary Program: Application Program Requirements**

2021 – 2023

**This package is to announce a new 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](mailto:snarp@hiyamhousing.com)  
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## Squamish Nation Assistance with Rent Program (SNARP)

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To support our community affected by the health and housing crisis, the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw Council has announced the temporary assistance with rent program. This program is part of an overall affordable housing strategy to benefit the Squamish community.

Administered by Hiyám ta Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Housing Society (Hiyám Housing), this program will provide Squamish Nation tenants with a monthly rent support payment for up to one year, paid directly to the eligible renter. Total overall program funding for 2021 to 2022 is \$600,000.

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 slhenlhánaʔ (women) and kʼémkʼemay (girls) are sacred to us. Inclusive to LGBTQAI2S+ (Two-Spirited);
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

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- Hiyám ta Sḱw̓wú7mesh 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, Council passed a Motion to fund and develop SNARP in response to the health and housing crisis.

## SNARP Policy and Procedures

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### 1. Rent Support Amounts

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

- a) Single person \$250
- b) Family with one child or dependent \$500
- c) Single parent or family with one 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) 10 Rental Supplements will support Squamish women, girls, and children fleeing violence. This category is inclusive to LGBTQAI2S+ Squamish Nation members who may be experiencing or fleeing violence and abuse;
- b) 10 Rental Supplements will support Squamish Nation Elders (55+);
- c) 10 Rental Supplements will support Squamish People with Disabilities.

## 4. Eligibility Procedure Requirements

Applicants must;

- a) Be a Squamish Nation member in good standing with the Nation;
- b) Be renting in the private market and paying a market rate;
- c) Meet the annual gross household income threshold;
- d) Be renting at a market rate anywhere, including outside of the province, country, on- and off-reserve;
- e) Provide a copy of tenancy and landlord information;
- f) Not in other subsidized housing or receiving similar rent relief payments;
- g) Have a 2020 household income of less than \$85,000 for households without dependents and \$125,000 for households with dependents;
- h) 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) Applications open in June 2021;
- b) Rent Supplement payments start mid July 2021 for 12 months;
- c) Applications mailed to all registered Squamish Nation members;
- d) Applicants must have all required documents and photos prepared and sent in;
- e) Hiyám Housing will be using lottery selection to select supplement receivers.

## 6. Payment Procedure

- a) The temporary program is for two years, and renters will need to reapply for the rent assistance funds again the following year;
- b) Call out for new SNARP applications will be completed for the 2023 funding year;
- c) Direct payment is available to eligible members if they have signed up with the Nation 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, rent receipt, or notice of rent increase;
- c) Landlord's details and contact information, including email address;
- d) Proof of Income: or any household member who is over the age of 19:
  - I. Identification, such as a driver's license, status card, passport, or BC identification card;
  - II. Proof of 2020 income (2020 Notice of Assessment or T-Slips), or letter from employer;
- e) Rental Confirmation: Landlords may be asked to confirm details provided about the tenancy, including rental address and monthly rent amount.

- f) Ineligible: Hiýám Housing may follow up with the tenant's application to ensure all information is true and correct.
- g) Hiýám 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:

- a) Hiýám 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;
- e) Staff will sort through the applications into different categories and target populations;
- f) When the lottery drawing takes place you will receive your number before the lottery is held;
- g) Once we have sorted, we will conduct the lottery virtually on a reliable software;
- h) Ability to attend the lottery drawings virtually via Zoom;
- i) Staff will draw applicants' names for each category separately;
- j) Hiýám Housing will review the list again and select and notify the chosen applicants.

## 9) Household Eligibly

- 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 40 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, or a couple where at least one person is age 55 or older,
  - 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,
  - V. Single people and couples – You are a single person, or a couple, with a low income and homeless, or at risk of homelessness. In addition, you do

not meet the definitions of seniors or people with disabilities.

## 9. 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) HiYám Housing staff may follow up at a later time to verify eligibility. If we find that the information provided is inaccurate, we may terminate the payments.
- d) If market rental housing situations change and the tenant is receiving similar rental support or moving into subsidized housing, tenants are required to notify HiYám 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 with the Nation which could have implications on their ability to access services with HiYám Housing or the Nation.
- f) If you move, you must notify HiYám Housing. The subsidy can move locations; however, you must still meet all the requirements to continue to be eligible.