

Hong Kong Housing Society
Express Flat Allocation Scheme For Group A Rental Estates (2019)
Application Guide

Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) launches Express Flat Allocation Scheme For Group A Rental Estates (2019) (Express Scheme) to provide a limited number of less popular Group A rental housing units for those 2-5 persons eligible public rental housing (PRH) applicants who failed to select a PRH flat and signed “**Notification for Unsuccessful Flat Selection (Flat Selection Process)**” slip after attending the self-flat selection process under Housing Department’s (HD) Express Flat Allocation Scheme 2019 to apply.

Eligible 2-5 persons PRH applicants who have been invited by HD to attend her self-flat selection process and signed to confirm the withdrawal of the said application after failing to select a PRH flat in the process, if they are interested in HKHS’s Express Scheme, they can bring along the signed “**Notification for Unsuccessful Flat Selection (Flat Selection Process)**” slip issued by HD **on the same day** and approach HKHS’s special counter located at Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) Customer Service Centre, PL1, 3 Wang Tau Hom South Road, Kowloon **on the same day** to consider register to apply for HKHS’s Express Scheme. (Approximately 29 less popular HKHS Group A rental housing units would be available for this scheme, most of them are suitable for 2-3 persons families. Exact number of units is subject to final announcement).

1. Eligibility Criteria

- 1.1 Information of the applicant and/or member(s) listed in application form for Express Scheme should tally with that of HKHA PRH Application.
- 1.2 The applicant must be aged 18 or above, and prior to the date of the application having resided in Hong Kong for 7 or more years (according to the issuing date of the Hong Kong Identity Card), holding a Hong Kong Identity Card having (a) the right of abode in Hong Kong or (b) stay in Hong Kong not limited by the Hong Kong Immigration Department. The applicant and all family members included in the application must be permanently residing in Hong Kong. Family member(s) who have not landed in Hong Kong cannot be included in the application.
- 1.3 The application must consist of at least two persons, the relationship between the applicant and other member(s) must either be husband and wife, parent(s), child(ren), unmarried sibling(s) or lineal relative(s) depending on him/her and currently living together. (For married persons listed in the application, their spouse(s) and child(ren) under 18 years old must be included, unless final divorce documents with legal custody of child(ren) or death certificate of spouse can be produced. Only one of the married children of the applicant may be included in the application. A person under 18 years of age must apply together with his/her parents or legal guardian.)
- 1.4 Neither the applicant nor any family member listed in the application form owns residential property in Hong Kong in any form or manner directly or indirectly within 24 months prior to the date of application and up to the commencement of tenancy with HKHS.
- 1.5 The applicant and all family member(s) included in the application must not be/have been an owner of any property purchased under any of the subsidised housing schemes operated by the Government or HKHS. Those who have their names deleted from the relevant registers due to change in marital status can be exempted from this restriction.
- 1.6 Upon rehousing under HKHS Express Scheme, applicant and/or member(s) listed in the application form with records in PRH or other subsidised housing/schemes must move out and delete their names from the records within 2 months (HKHS)/60 days (HKHA) from the commencement of the tenancy.
- 1.7 The total monthly income and asset of the applicant and his/her family member(s) must not exceed the maximum limits as listed below.

Family Size	Maximum Monthly Family Income Limits (Effective from 1 April 2019)	Maximum Family Asset Limits* (Effective from 1 April 2019)
2 persons	\$18,690	\$350,000
3 persons	\$23,010	\$470,000
4 persons	\$29,240	\$530,000
5 persons	\$35,280	\$630,000

*If all member(s) of a family is/are elderly person(s) of age 60 or above, the total net asset limit for the family will double the amount as shown in the above table.

- 1.8 The applicant and all the members listed in the application form (if any) must still meet the eligibility criteria under the Express Scheme at any time from the date of application and up to the commencement of tenancy for the allocated rental housing unit. If the PRH application is found ineligible due to the change of information and/or whatever reason, the application for Express Scheme will be cancelled accordingly. HKHS will not be responsible for all losses, damages and claims arising therefrom. In case of disputes on the interpretation of the application eligibility criteria, the decision of HKHS shall be final and HKHS reserves the right not to accept any applications.
- 1.9 At any time from the date of application for Express Scheme and up to the commencement of tenancy for the allocated rental housing unit, such application will be cancelled if the applicant has been allocated another PRH unit through other ways including but not limited to allocation via HKHA's PRH application.

2. Important Items

- 2.1 HKHS will start accepting application for Express Scheme when HD commences her self-flat selection process under Express Flat Allocation Scheme (2019). The self-flat selection process conducted by HD is tentatively scheduled in around late September 2019 to early October 2019, subject to final announcement.
- 2.2 Eligible 2-5 persons PRH applicants who have been invited and attended HD's self-flat selection process 2019 but failed to select flats in the process, if interested to apply for HKHS's Express Scheme, may bring along the signed "Notification for Unsuccessful Flat Selection (Flat Selection Process)" slip issued by HD **on the same day** and approach HKHS special counter located at HKHA Customer Service Centre, PL1, 3 Wang Tau Hom South Road, Kowloon **on the same day** to consider register for the Express Scheme.
- 2.3 HKHS would provide approximately 29 less popular Group A rental housing units for 2-5 persons eligible PRH applicants to apply (exact numbers of units is subject to final announcement). Each eligible PRH applicant can choose one rental housing unit from the list of HKHS's units available for selection in accordance with the number of authorized members on his/her PRH application and the number of persons suitable for allocation of each flat displayed for selection. Each applicant will only have one opportunity to select a unit under the Express Scheme (including the selection made by the authorized person) and the selection is irrevocable once made. Each rental unit has 5 quotas which will allow 5 applicants to select. Application will be closed once all the quotas for the rental housing units are fully filled. (For details please browse HKHS website www.hkhs.com or inquire via Express Scheme Hotline on 2839 2001 during office hours)
- 2.4 Applicant who has successfully selected a rental housing unit will have to complete an intention form for confirmation of his/her choice. He/she should submit the completed application form for Express Scheme to HKHS Applications Section (Address: G/F, Dragon Centre, 23 Wun Sha Street, Tai Hang, Hong Kong) **on or before 25 October 2019** by mail or in person to confirm the said application. Late applications will not be considered. Please note that the submission date of the application will be determined by the postal chop for forms submitted by post. Please ensure that sufficient postage is affixed and return address is provided on the mail in order to avoid delay of mail.
- 2.5 If application forms are received and verified as valid, HKHS will arrange a detailed vetting interview with the applicants. Applicants who are invited must attend the interview and complete the vetting procedure accordingly. Failing to do so, the Express Scheme application will be cancelled, and the selected flat will not be reserved.
- 2.6 After confirming the eligibility of the applicants, flat offer will be made to the eligible applicants according to the priority of their PRH application, number of listed members in their applications and the choice of flat selected. Whether the applicant will be allocated with the selected flat will be subject to his/her fulfillment of the eligibility vetting.
- 2.7 Applicants with successful flat allocation should come with all the family members aged 18 or above to HKHS Applications Section (G/F, Dragon Centre, 23 Wun Sha Street, Tai Hang, Hong Kong) to make statutory declaration according to the laws of Hong Kong for declaring that all information and documents submitted in support of the application are true and correct. Applicants have to complete the statutory declaration before they are being arranged to sign the tenancy agreement of the offered flat with the respective Estate Office.
- 2.8 If the applicant withdraws from the Express Scheme or refuses the flat offer of HKHS, the application will be cancelled, but his/her PRH application will not be affected.
- 2.9 Please note that HKHS cannot guarantee that every applicant is able to be invited to attend the vetting interview or being allocated his/her selected rental unit.
- 2.10 Applicant who has obtained a rental housing unit through Express Scheme and subsequently applies with Green Form (GF) for purchase of a flat under HKHA's Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) or HKHS's "Subsidised Sales Flats Project" (including surplus HOS and new HOS flats) within three years from the initial commencement date of the tenancy agreement, he/she will be treated as White Form (WF) applicant in the flat selection order and will be put under the WF queue. Any flat taken up by him/her will be counted against the WF quota. Upon purchase of such a flat, he/she will have to surrender his/her rental unit to HKHS like the other GF applicants.
- 2.11 Applicants housed through Express Scheme will not be eligible to apply for the sale of flats under GF Subsidised Home Ownership Scheme (GSH) within three years from the initial date of tenancy commencement of their rental units.

- 2.12 Having accepted the rental housing unit through Express Scheme, the applicant and his/her family members cannot request for any transfer within three years from the commencement date of the tenancy agreement except transfers upon demand by HKHS.
- 2.13 If an applicant has applied for “White Form Secondary Market Scheme (WSM)” and Express Scheme at the same time, in case HKHS or HKHA has issued the Letter of Nomination, or if the applicant through WSM has successfully purchased a flat in the Flat For Sale Scheme Secondary Market of HKHS or the HOS Secondary Market of the HKHA, his/her Express Scheme will be cancelled. If an applicant has successfully obtained allocation of a rental unit through Express Scheme, his/her application of WSM will be cancelled automatically.
- 2.14 Tenants who take up rental units with effective vacancy period of 12 months or more will be granted 50% reduction on monthly rent. The period of rent reduction is determined by the period of effective vacancy of a flat (“Effective vacancy period” is the period during which the unit is under normal letting so that it may differ from actual vacancy period). Tenants cannot apply for HKHS’s Rent Assistance Scheme during the rent concession period.
- 2.15 If there is any false or untrue or misleading information in the application form, the application will be cancelled and flat allocated will be recovered. The decision of HKHS on whether there is any false or misleading statement or information in any application shall be final.
- 2.16 Any person who knowingly and wilfully makes a false statutory declaration (including representation in the application form which are false, untrue or misleading) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction upon indictment to imprisonment and to a fine.

3. Notes to Applicant Relating to the Collection of Personal Data

- 3.1 The personal data collected in the application form are used for processing the applications for Express Scheme. The personal data provided may also be used by HKHS for conducting statistical surveys and researches and to contact the applicants for such purposes. The personal data in the application form, including the declaration by the applicant and his/ her family member(s) authorizing the collection and comparison/ checking/ transfer of their personal data, are provided by the applicant and his/ her family member(s) on a voluntary basis. If insufficient information is provided, HKHS may not be able to process the application.
- 3.2 For the purposes stated above and prevention of double subsidised housing benefit enjoyed by applicants and their family members, HKHS may disclose the personal data provided by the applicant and his/ her family member(s) in the application form to other government departments, public/ private organisations/ companies, or other employers concerned, or check such data with these parties.
- 3.3 The personal data provided in the application form are for the purpose of application of Express Scheme. Under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486), the applicant and his/ her family member(s) have the right to request access to or correction of the personal data they provided in the application form. Where necessary, such requests should be made in writing and directed by post to Assistant General Manager, HKHS Applications Section, G/F, Dragon Centre, 23 Wun Sha Street, Tai Hang, Hong Kong. A fee may be payable for such requests for data access.

4. Warning

Applicants should note that applying for Express Scheme is free of charge. If they are approached by any person who offers to provide assistance in return for remuneration, they should report to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (“ICAC”) without delay. Attempted bribery is also an offence in law. HKHS will refer such case to ICAC / Police for investigation and the application may be cancelled irrespective of whether such person has been prosecuted or convicted of the relevant offence.

5. Contact Us

For enquiry, please contact HKHS hotline at 2839 2001 or write to HKHS Applications Section, G/F, Dragon Centre, 23 Wun Sha Street, Tai Hang, Hong Kong.

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 8:30am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5:30pm

Saturday and Public Holidays: Closed

Points to Note

- (i) HKHS is one of the public organizations under the ambit of ICAC and Ombudsman.
- (ii) This application guide has no legal effect in itself and shall not be binding on HKHS. HKHS shall not be liable for loss suffered by any person arising out of the reliance of this application guide.
- (iii) HKHS reserves the right to amend, correct or revise this application guide without prior notice.