

## **Rent Assistance Scheme**

The Rent Assistance Scheme of the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) aims to provide short-term temporary relief to needy tenants of rental estates. Eligible households will be granted either 25% or 50% rent reduction for a term of two years. If you want to apply for Rent Assistance, please obtain an application form from your respective Estate Office, complete and return it together with the stipulated documents.

### **(A) Eligibility Criteria**

1. The total net household assets<sup>Note 1</sup> are not exceeding the application waiting list asset limit of the rental estates; and
2. The total household income<sup>Note 1</sup> is not exceeding the following limits:
  - i) Eligible for 50% rent reduction
    - the household income is below 50% of the application waiting list income limit of the rental estates; or
  - ii) Eligible for 25% rent reduction
    - The household income is between 50% and 75% of the application waiting list income limit of the rental estates; and
3. All household members do not have domestic property ownership in Hong Kong; and
4. The households fulfil the prevailing minimum occupancy requirement of the rental flats; and
5. The households have retained regular and continuous residence in the flat and complied with the terms in the tenancy agreement regarding occupancy status.

### **(B) Points to Note**

1. Applicant (Tenant) should complete an application form and send it to the respective estate office together with all relevant information and documents. If the required documents are insufficient or not submitted, the application could not be processed.
2. Applicant who have member(s) receiving rent allowance under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme can still apply for the Rent Assistance from HKHS as long as they fulfill the eligibility. In any case, the total allowance (including the rent allowance under the CSSA Scheme and the rent assistance under the Rent Assistance Scheme of the HKHS) must not exceed the monthly rent payable amount.

3. Households living in Group B estates or Group A rental blocks <sup>Note 2</sup> completed after 2006 have to live in the flat for 2 years before they are eligible to apply for rent assistance (except transfer cases).
4. Applicant and all household members aged 18 or above are required to take oath according to “Oaths and Declarations Ordinance” on the information supplied in the Rent Assistance Application.
5. If all family members have taken oath on or before 15th of the month, rent assistance could be given as from the next month; if oath is taken on 16th or after, rent assistance will be given as from the month after next.
6. If the rent assistance beneficiaries are still in need of rent assistance, they have to submit a fresh application to the Estate Office 3 months before the expiry of the rent assistance period.
7. Rent assistance beneficiaries should inform the HKHS to reassess their eligibility if the information supplied is changed and leading to a lower level of rent assistance or they are no longer eligible for rent assistance.
8. To prevent abuse, the HKHS will randomly select the applications for rigorous checking to ensure that the rent assistance beneficiaries are still eligible for rent assistance, both at the time of application and during the period of receiving rent assistance.
9. If the beneficiaries have concealed or provided false statement or withheld any information in order to obtain rent assistance by deception commits a criminal offence. The applicant and the household members listed on the application form are liable for prosecution. Their applications will be cancelled and HKHS will cease to grant the rent assistance. They have to pay the rent undercharge to the HKHS also.

Note 1: The HKHS will review the application waiting list income and asset limits for the rental estates annually, please note the latest announcement.

Note 2: Rental Estates of the HKHS are classified into Group A and B. Please contact the estate staff or browse the website of the HKHS ([www.hkhs.com](http://www.hkhs.com)) for the categories of the Rental Estates.

## **Enquiries**

The above information is for reference only. For details, please contact the Estate Office so that we can render assistance.

Last Review Date: 04/2024

## Income and Asset Limits of Rent Assistance Scheme (with effect from 1 April 2024)

### Group A Rental Estates

| No. of persons | Maximum total household asset limit | 50% Rent Reduction                         | 25% Rent Reduction   |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|                |                                     | Monthly Household Income                   |  |
|                |                                     | Below 50% of the Waiting List Income Limit | Below 75% but not lower than 50% of the Waiting List Income Limit* |
| 1              | \$286,000                           | < \$6,470                                  | \$6,470 - \$9,705  |
| 2              | \$387,000                           | < \$9,865                                  | \$9,865 - \$14,798   |
| 3              | \$505,000                           | < \$12,370                                 | \$12,370 - \$18,555  |
| 4              | \$590,000                           | < \$15,475                                 | \$15,475 - \$23,213  |
| 5              | \$655,000                           | < \$18,870                                 | \$18,870 - \$28,305  |
| 6              | \$709,000                           | < \$22,310                                 | \$22,310 - \$33,465  |
| 7              | \$757,000                           | < \$24,485                                 | \$24,485 - \$36,728  |
| 8              | \$792,000                           | < \$27,385                                 | \$27,385 - \$41,078  |
| 9              | \$877,000                           | < \$30,215                                 | \$30,215 - \$45,323  |
| 10 or above    | \$945,000                           | < \$32,975                                 | \$32,975 - \$49,463  |

### Group B Rental Estates

| No. of persons | Maximum total household asset limit | 50% Rent Reduction                         | 25% Rent Reduction   |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|                |                                     | Monthly Household Income                   |  |
|                |                                     | Below 50% of the Waiting List Income Limit | Below 75% but not lower than 50% of the Waiting List Income Limit* |
| 1              | \$286,000                           | < \$9,865                                  | \$9,865 - \$14,798   |
| 2              | \$387,000                           | < \$15,475                                 | \$15,475 - \$23,213  |
| 3              | \$505,000                           | < \$18,870                                 | \$18,870 - \$28,305  |
| 4              | \$590,000                           | < \$24,485                                 | \$24,485 - \$36,728  |
| 5 or above     | \$945,000                           | < \$30,215                                 | \$30,215 - \$45,323  |

### Elderly Persons' Flats

| No. of persons | Maximum total household asset limit | 50% Rent Reduction                         | 25% Rent Reduction   |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|                |                                     | Monthly Household Income                   |  |
|                |                                     | Below 50% of the Waiting List Income Limit | Below 75% but not lower than 50% of the Waiting List Income Limit* |
| 1              | \$286,000                           | < \$7,450                                  | \$7,450 - \$11,175   |
| 2              | \$387,000                           | < \$9,865                                  | \$9,865 - \$14,798   |
| 3              | \$505,000                           | < \$12,370                                 | \$12,370 - \$18,555  |

\* Rounded up to the nearest dollars

- Note: (1) If all member(s) of a household is / are aged 60 or above, the total net asset limit for the household will double the amount as shown in the above table.
- (2) For 2-person household, if the household composition is a couple and the tenant is aged 60 or above, the total net asset limit for the household will double the amount as shown in the above table.