



The Housing Toolkit

Helping individuals with Autism and their families
navigate the Nova Scotia housing support system.

The Housing Toolkit | Acknowledgments

The Housing Toolkit was written and designed by Autism Nova Scotia. The organization would like to thank the Government of Nova Scotia for their support and feedback during the review process.

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The Housing Toolkit | Index

The Housing Toolkit Index	1
Where to Start	2
Nova Scotia	3
What is the Department of Community Services	4
How do I decide what is the best option?	5
How to apply for support?	6
What is the Disability Support Program?	7
Deciding where to live	8
What housing options are available for adults?	9
What support is available for adult housing?	10
Licensed Housing Options	11
Unlicensed Housing Options	12
What is the Income Assistance Program?	13
Housing NS	14
Applying for the Income Assistance Program	15
Housing NS Programs	16
Housing NS-Housing Options	17
Housing NS- Funding Options	18
I have more questions-where do I go?	19

What is the Housing Toolkit?

The Housing Toolkit helps individuals with autism and their families learn how to access housing and funding in Nova Scotia.

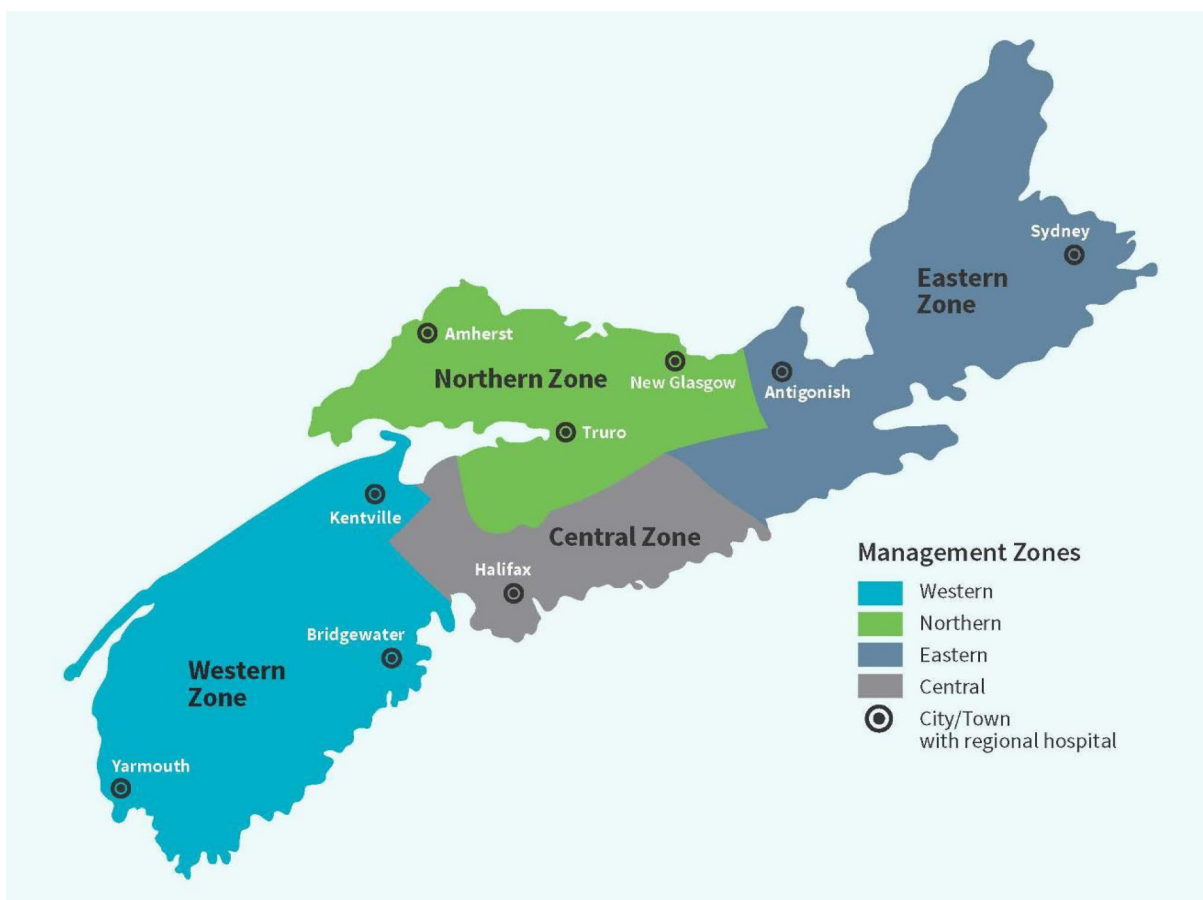
The Housing Toolkit explains:

- Who to reach out to for help
- How to reach out for help
- How an individual qualifies for help
- Housing Options
- Funding Options
- Support Options



The Housing Toolkit | Nova Scotia

The goal of the Housing Toolkit is to help explain the services and supports available in Nova Scotia for individuals with autism and their support network.



Department of Community Services



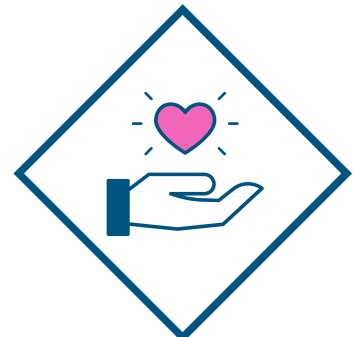
Child, Youth & Family Support

- Community Residential Services.
- Children in Care.
- Alternative Family Care.



Employment Support & Income Assistance

- Income Assistance
- Employment Support Services



Disability Support Program

- Flex Individualized Funding Program
- Alternative Family Program
- Direct Family Support for Children
- Licensed Homes for Special Care
- Independent Living Support

Care Coordinator

A Care Coordinator will help an individual find the best funding and support option for them.

Role of the Care Coordinator:

- The Care Coordinator will be assigned after an individual calls the Department of Community Services to set up an intake appointment.
- The Care Coordinator will work with each individual to complete a financial and functional needs assessment.
- The Care Coordinator will determine how much assistance is available for an individual after their assessments are completed.
- The Care Coordinator will determine what housing option is available for an individual based on their assessment.
- The Care Coordinator will work with an individual to access supports should their requested housing option be unavailable.

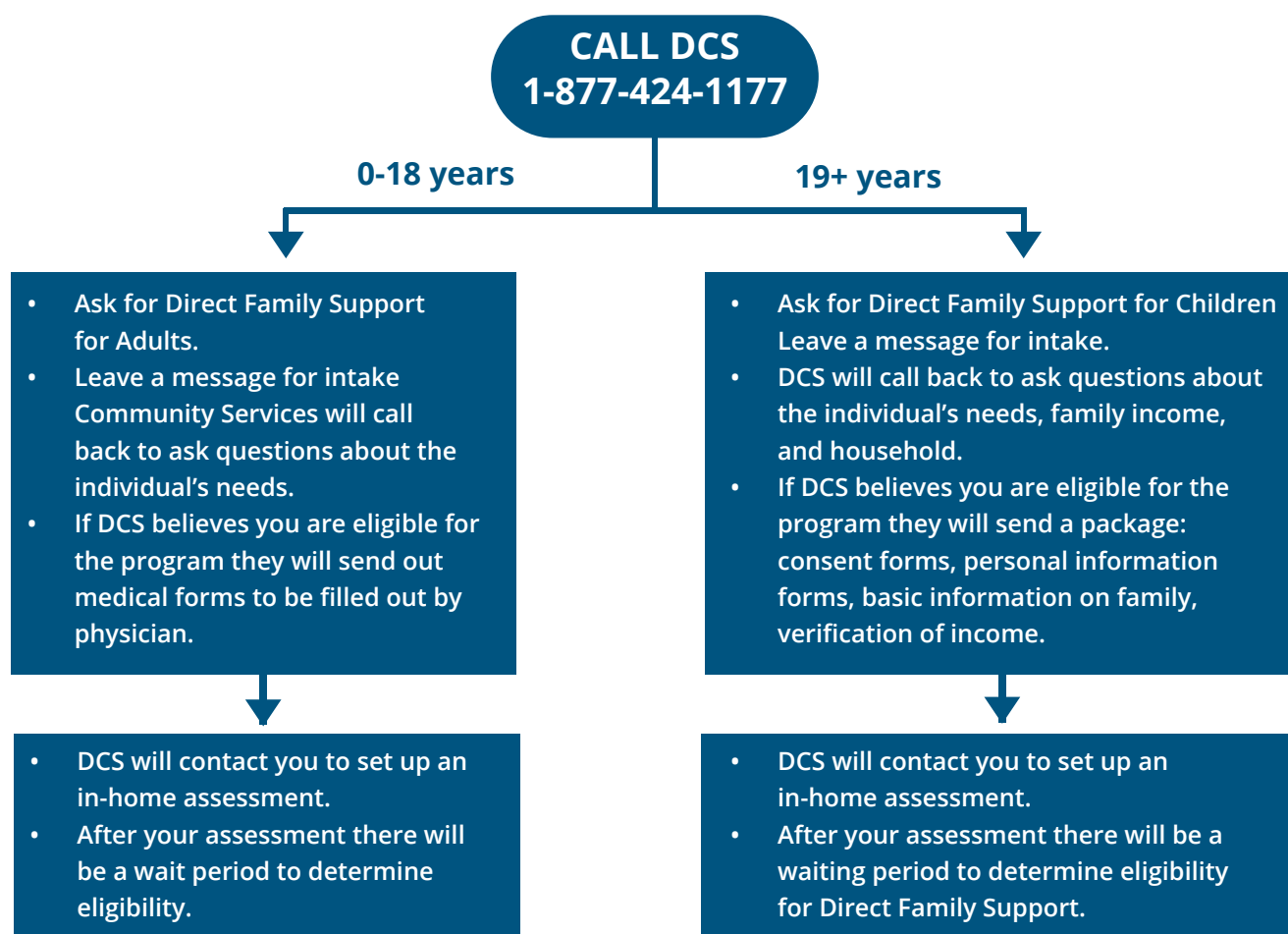


Who to contact:

When determining an individual's eligibility they must contact the Department of Community Services (DCS) to access the Disability Support Program for an intake appointment to set up a functional and financial assessment.

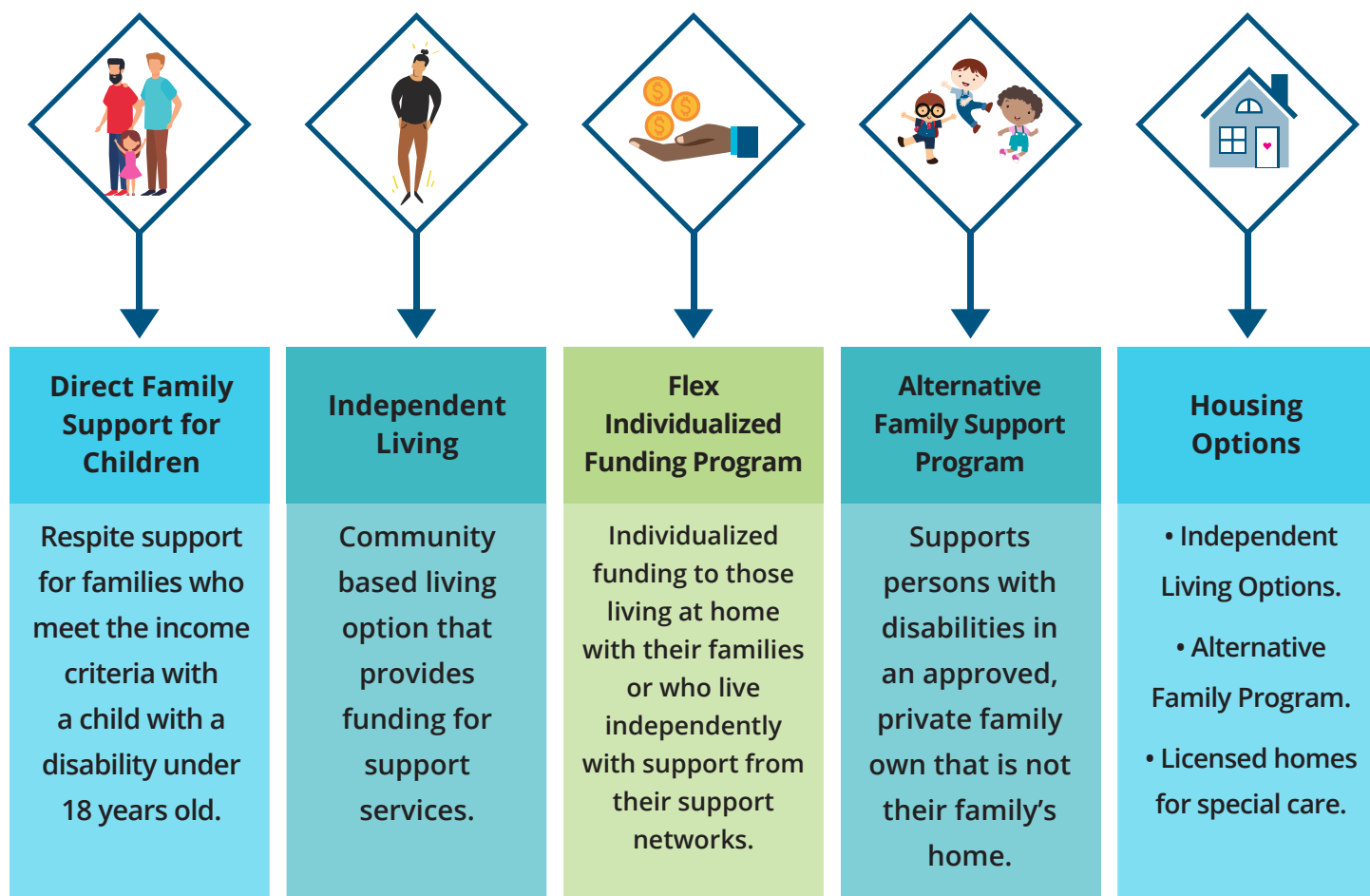
Disability Support Program

Learn how to contact Department of Community Services (DCS)



*If not found eligible you can request a review of your application.

The Disability Support Program is part of the Department of Community Services. They help individuals who are eligible with receiving disability related supports, funding, and supported housing.



All Disability Support Programs require an application for approval as well as a functional assessment and an income assessment.

How to choose a housing option?

The Disability Support Program (DSP) will assign a Care Coordinator to work with an individual and their family to determine what the best option is for them.

Criteria to receive funding/housing help:

1. Have a confirmed diagnosis of a developmental and/or intellectual disability, long term mental health illness, and/or physical disability.
2. Complete a functional assessment with a Care Coordinator to determine the amount of support an individual will need.
3. Complete a financial assessment with a Care Coordinator to determine an individual's current income



What is Housing?

Housing is where someone lives. There are different options for where an individual can live. The Disability Support Program provides funding to individuals to help find a home that meets their support needs.

Licensed Options:

1. Small Option Home
2. Group Home
3. Developmental Residence
4. Residential Care Facility
5. Adult Residential Centre
6. Regional Rehabilitation Centre

Unlicensed Options:

1. Living with their family/support network
2. Living alone/with a roommate
3. Living with alternative family
4. Living in a community home



Housing Options:

This graphic displays all of the housing options available to adult individuals through the Disability Support Program.

Independent Living Support/ Flex Individualized Funding:

- Live independently or with a roommate and receive up to 31 hours/week of support.
- Live at home or with your support network and receive funding support to help support your individuals needs.

Licensed Home for Special Care

Residential Support Options are staffed based on the level of need:

- Small Option Home
- Group Home
- Developmental Residence
- Residential Care Facility
- Adult Residential Centre
- Regional Rehabilitation Centre

Disability Support Program Housing Options

Alternative Family Support

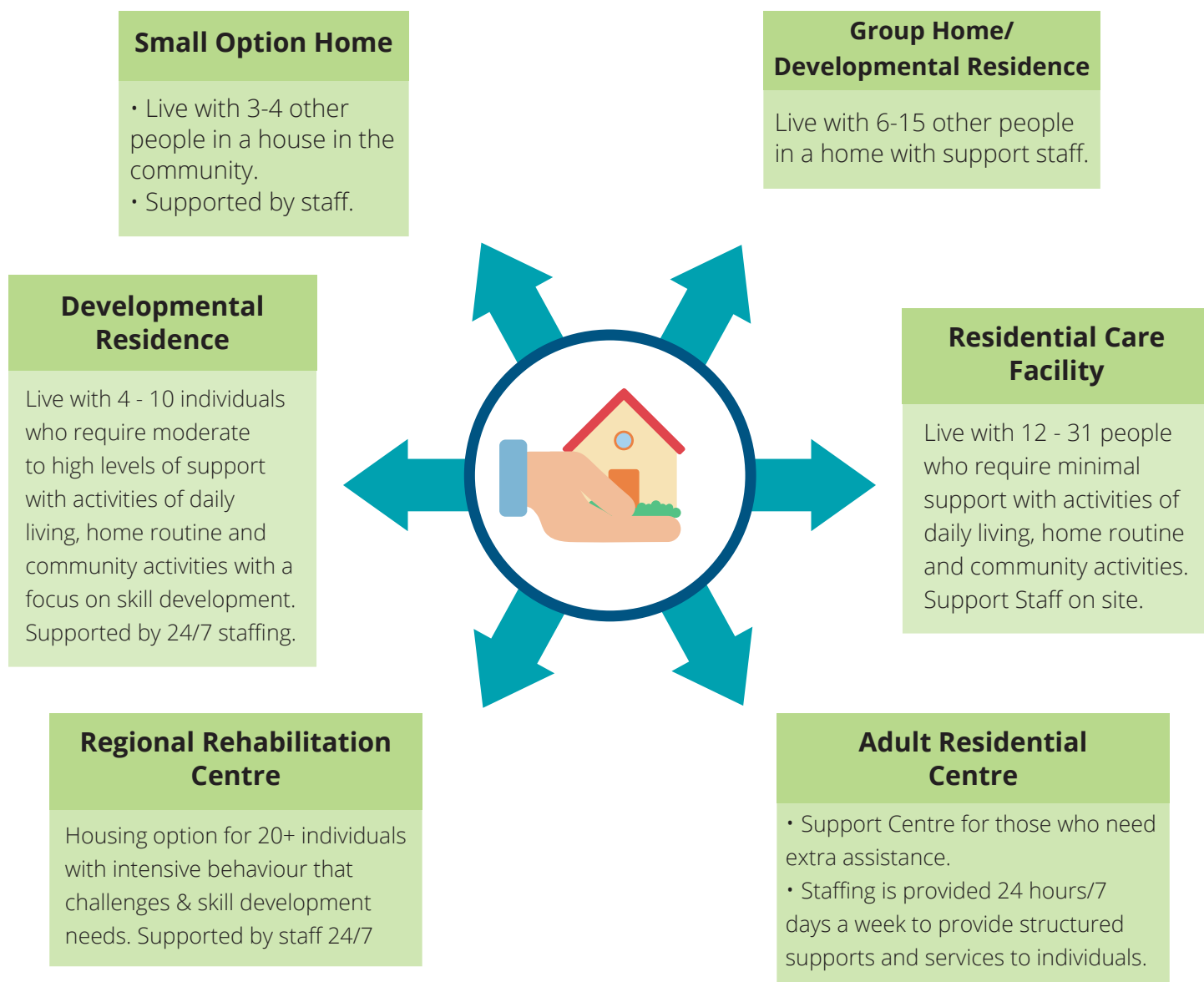
Live with another family in their home!
Receive the help you need in a supportive family environment.



Your care coordinator will help you figure out what option is best for you based on your goals and assessed support needs.

Licensed Home for Special Care Options:

The Housing Options below are funded by the Disability Support program. The support would include food, rent, and personal supplies for each individual.



Unlicensed Options:

- Unlicensed home options are different than Licensed Homes.
An individual and their support network are responsible for finding housing
- The Disability Support Program will provide a certain amount of money to help pay for support workers, rent, food, and utilities.
- For more information about the Flex Individualized Funding Program, Independent Living Support Program or Alternative Family Support Program, please discuss with your DSP Care Coordinator.

Live on your own

- Live in an apartment by yourself.
- Have up to 31 hours a week of support.

Live in a community home

Live with 2 or more other individuals in a home with support staff organized by your support network.

Live with an Alternative Family

- Live with another family other than your own.
- Have a supportive family environment to help if needed.



Live with a roommate

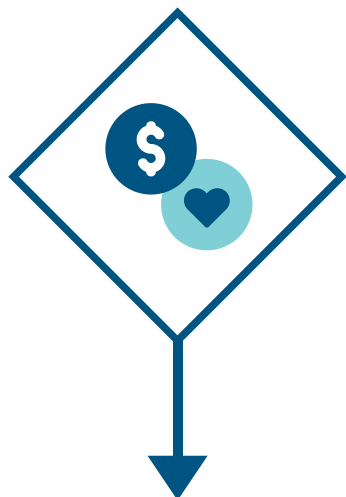
- Live with another person in an apartment or house.
- Have 31 hours a week of support.

Live with your family/support network

- Live with your family or support network
- Receive funding to help with basic needs and rent

The Employment Support & Income Assistance Program

Is part of the Department of Community Services. They help individuals who are eligible with receiving support & funding.



Employment Support Program

- This program helps people on Income Assistance to become more self-sufficient.



Basic or Special Needs

Basic or Special Needs Assistance can cover these items below & more:

- Transportation, childcare, eyeglasses, special diets, emergency dental care, funeral costs, prescription drug coverage, emergency shelter, emergency fuel to heat your home, a damage deposit to rent an apartment, furniture, & school supplies, etc.



Benefit for Children

Child Tax Benefit:

- This refers to Canada Child Benefit and the NS Child Benefit, neither of which are provided by Employment Support and Income Assistance.

Who to contact:

When determining an individual's eligibility they must contact the Department of Community Services (DCS) for an intake appointment.

Applying for the Income Assistance Program

Learn how to contact DCS for help:

Call: 1-877-424-1177

Let them know you want to apply for Income Assistance. When you call have this information nearby:

- Bank statement for your account.
- SIN #
- NS Health Care #
- Information about financial and family situation.

A caseworker will call to set up a meeting.

Bring to the meeting:

- All members of households Health Card's
- All members of households SIN #
- At the meeting the caseworker will have you fill out the **ESIA Intake/Application Form**

After the meeting with your Care Coordinator you will find out in 3-7 days if you are eligible.

What is Housing NS:

- Housing NS is responsible for public housing and housing support programs for the province of Nova Scotia.
- Your Care Coordinator may recommend Housing NS as an option for you or your family depending on what your needs are.

Housing NS Offices:

1. Central Zone (Halifax): 1-902-424-5110
2. Northern Zone (New Glasgow): 1-902-755-5065
3. Eastern Zone(Sydney): 1-902-563-2120
4. Western Zone (Middleton): 1-902-825-3481



Housing Nova Scotia:

Housing NS has options for living as well as programs to support families and individuals in need of financial help.



Housing Options

1. Public Housing for Families
2. Co-operative Housing
3. Non-profit Housing

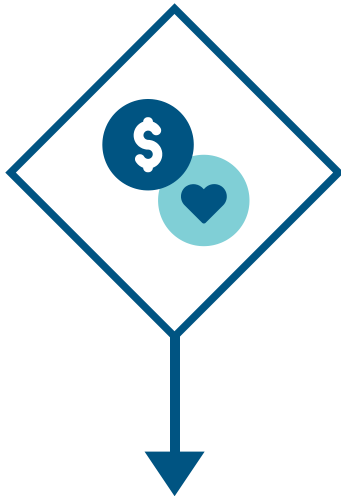


Funding Programs

1. Rent Supplement Program
2. Disability Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program
3. Housing Repair or Modification Programs
4. Canada-NS Target Housing Benefit
5. Small Loan Assistance Program

Housing Options:

Housing NS has a number of housing options to fit individual and families living needs.



Public Housing for Families

Low-income families can apply:

- Rental rates do not exceed 25% of family's total gross income.
- Home comes with stove, refrigerator
Some home include heat and hot water.



Co-operative Housing

Low-income housing option for families and individuals:

- Housing options owned and managed by resident.
- Monthly rent determined by annual household income.



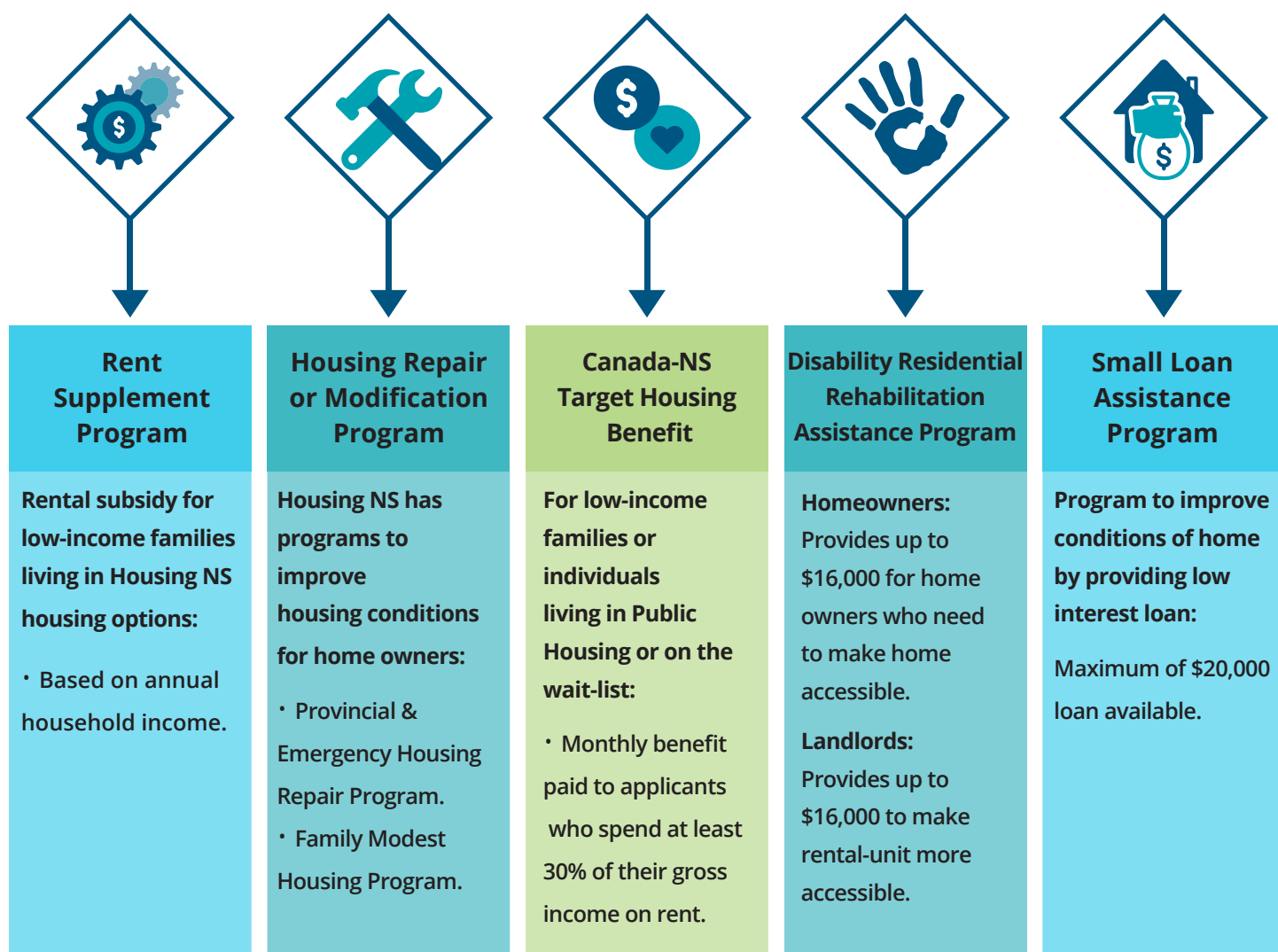
Non-profit Housing

Low-income housing option for families and individuals:

- Housing options owned and managed by the non-profit organization.
- Monthly rent determined by annual household income of the renter.

Funding Options:

Housing NS has options to support families and individuals in need of financial assistance with rent, renovations, or emergency funds.



If you are looking for more information, use this list of resources:

Department of Community Services

<https://novascotia.ca/coms/>

Disability Support Program

<https://novascotia.ca/coms/disabilities/index.html>

Child, Youth, and Family Supports

<https://novascotia.ca/coms/families/index.html>

Income Assistance and Employment Support

<https://novascotia.ca/coms/employment/index.html>

Direct Family Support for Children (DFSC) Program Income Guidelines

<https://novascotia.ca/coms/disabilities/DFSCIncomeGuidelines.html>

Housing Nova Scotia

<https://housing.novascotia.ca/>