



What is community housing?

Community housing is housing assistance delivered by community organisations and local governments to eligible individuals and families. Providers of community housing are funded by the Queensland Government.

How do I apply for community housing?

You can apply for long-term community housing by completing an Application for Housing Assistance form. On the form you will be asked to choose whether you wish to apply for community housing, public housing, or both. All eligible applicants are listed on the social housing register managed by the Department of Housing.

Application forms are available from Department of Housing area offices, the Department of Housing website (www.housing.qld.gov.au), funded providers of community housing and Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP) offices.

Why should I apply for both community housing and public housing on the application form?

Applying for both community housing and public housing means you will be registered for both on the housing register managed by the Department of Housing. This could result in you being housed faster in your listed areas.

What do community housing and public housing have in common?

- Community housing and public housing are forms of social housing assistance for eligible applicants. They both offer affordable rental housing for people on low incomes with a housing need.
- Tenants of community housing pay similar rents to public housing tenants (approximately 25% of a household's assessable income). Affordable housing is a type of community housing where your rent is based on a different rent schedule. Tenants in affordable housing generally pay higher levels of rent than tenants in public housing and other forms of community housing. Affordable housing rents can be up to 74.9% of market rent.
- The maximum rent in both community housing (with the exception of affordable housing) and public housing is the market rent for that property. Market rent is the amount of rent a household in the private rental market would expect to pay for a similar property in the area.
- Tenants in long-term community housing, including affordable housing and public housing, will have their circumstances reviewed at either four or 10 years to determine if they have a continued need for housing assistance.
- Both community housing and public housing applicants have appeal rights. When a community housing applicant is affected by a decision made by the community provider they can appeal to the provider. Public housing applicants affected by a decision made by the department can appeal to the department.

What are the differences between community and public housing?

- Community housing is delivered by funded providers including community organisations, local governments and churches. If you accept an offer of community housing, your tenancy will usually be managed by the community provider.
- Public housing is housing assistance delivered directly by the Department of Housing through its area offices. If you accept an offer of public housing, your tenancy will be managed through the department's local area office.
- Providers of community housing may charge tenants a rental bond. Rental bonds are not required in public housing. The department may be able to provide a bond loan to assist with access to community housing.
- The department requires community housing providers to meet certain standards for housing provision and assistance. These standards are set out in funding contracts and through the *Housing Act 2003*. Departmental staff monitor the compliance of funded community organisations with respect to these standards.

What if I want to apply for other forms of housing assistance?

In addition to long-term community housing and affordable housing, you can also choose to lodge a copy of the Application for Housing Assistance Form with community organisations which provide transitional housing through programs including the Community Rent Scheme and the Community-managed Housing–Studio Units (singles accommodation) program.

If you require urgent or crisis accommodation you must apply directly to a provider that delivers these forms of assistance. More information on crisis and transitional housing services is available from your local Department of Housing area office. If you are homeless or at risk of homelessness, Homeless Persons Information Queensland also provides information on housing and available support services on 1800 474 753.

Need more information?

Please contact your nearest Department of Housing area office or

Community and Public Housing
Department of Housing
GPO Box 690
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Telephone: 1300 880 882

Email: communityhousing@housing.qld.gov.au