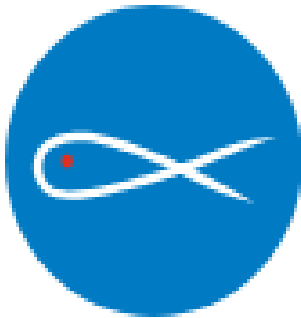


Navigating Social Services and Supports



**Society of
Saint Vincent de Paul**
Greater Toronto Central Council

Housing Supports for Neighbours in Need

Types of Social Housing

Toronto Market Rent

► Rent Geared to income Subsidy

RGI is 30% of a household monthly adjusted family net income. This is determined by each household members (over the age of 16) Notice of Assessment.

Rent Geared to Income/Priority Access: Survivors of family/domestic abuse and human trafficking, tenants already living in subsidized units, terminally ill applicants (less than 2 years to live), tenants re-locating from supportive housing, youth who are 16 or 17 years old when applying for RGI and who are heads of households, applicants who identify as indigenous to Canada

Social Housing Application

- ▶ Toronto. Housing Secretariat. Housing Stability Services - MyAccessToHousingTO Rent-Geared-to-Income Information and Application Support (211ontario.ca)
- ▶ If you require assistance with completing an application you can book an appointment to go in person at 176 Elm St. (Access to Housing Resource Centre). An appointment has to be pre-booked by calling 416-338-8888 (application support center).
- ▶ To find housing help center's you can visit;
<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/housing-support/rent-geared-to-income-subsidy/help-for-rent-geared-to-income-applicants/>
- ▶ Housing Subsidy - Region of Peel (peelregion.ca) (Peel Region)
- ▶ Durham Access to Social Housing (DASH) - Region of Durham
- ▶ Housing - Help to find housing - 211 Ontario - Help with locating housing help centers anywhere in Ontario.
- ▶ If you need emergency shelter, please call [Central Intake](#) at 416-338-4766.

Community Housing Partners

Community Housing Providers are alternative housing providers who have specific eligibility criteria.

Supportive Housing can be a good option for people with special circumstances.

Examples include the Society's own St. Francis Residence (mental health supports), VincenPaul Community Homes (recovery support), DePaul, Martineau, Vincent Homes (developmental services), Transitional and Emergency Shelters (Amelie House, Elisa House, Mary's Home, St. Clare's Residence). Contact us through info@ssvptoronto.ca for more information on how to access these options.

Mandate Housing

Mandate Housing describes Housing Providers who have special requirements for people who live in their buildings.

For example, they might require that tenants be seniors, artists, or members of specific cultural community such as the YMCA. The YMCA provides affordable and permanent housing for single women , women with children and gender diverse individuals. Pape Ave Apartments (ywcatoronto.org) . Each location has a housing intake contact.

The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)

This is a housing allowance program that provides eligible households with a housing benefit to assist with the cost of rent.

- ▶ In order to be eligible for to program, you must be experiencing homelessness and either admitted into a shelter program or be working with a counsellor who can provide advocacy regarding your homelessness.
- ▶ COHB is not currently available.

Market Rent Housing

- ▶ Toronto is registered second on the list of 35 Canadian cities for the high rent prices. The average 1 bedroom unit will now cost you \$2, 044.00 while a two-bedroom apartment will cost you \$2778.00 in the Greater Toronto Area.
- ▶ National monthly rent is increasing by 6.2% annually.
- ▶ Based on a report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, one way to measure rental affordability is to calculate the number of minimum-wage hours needed to pay the average monthly rent.
- ▶ In 2023, in 29 out of 37 census metropolitan areas (CMAs), rent for a two-bedroom unit consumed 80 or more hours of minimum-wage work. In 18 of these CMAs, rent consumed 100 hours or more. In Toronto and Vancouver, rent on a two-bedroom unit required 138 and 141 hours of work, respectively, leaving precious little for other essentials.

Financial Support for Renters

- ▶ HSF - Housing Stabilization Fund provides money for emergency housing needs (one time). Those receiving Ontario Works are eligible for this assistance through their Ontario Works caseworker. <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/support-for-people-in-financial-need/assistance-through-ontario-works/policies-and-procedures/housing-stabilization-fund/>
- ▶ The Toronto Rent Bank is a partnership between the City and Neighbourhood Information Post and provides grants to eligible Toronto (all over the province) residents who are behind on their rent. Individuals can apply once every 12 months for assistance with rental arrears up to \$5,000 or four months of rent. <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/housing-support/financial-support-for-renters/toronto-rent-bank/>
- ▶ Emergency Energy Fund helps low-income residents with energy-related emergencies. This fund can help reconnect, prevent disconnections or assist in the payment of energy arrears for hydro, gas, or oil services.

Financial Assistance for Persons who require support

Financial Support

- ▶ Ontario Works (OW): The purpose of Ontario Works is to provide temporary financial assistance to those most in need while they satisfy obligation to become and stay employed.
- ▶ Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP): Eligibility based on medical and financial circumstances.
- ▶ Compassionate Care Benefits: You can apply if you have to take time off from work to care for a very sick family member.
- ▶ Child Benefits: Provides money to eligible families to help them with a cost of raising children.
- ▶ Maternity and Parental Benefits
- ▶ Employment Insurance (EI): provides temporary financial assistance while looking for alternative work.

Ontario Works / My Benefits Portal

- ▶ MyBenefits is an online service available 24/7 to Ontario residents who receive Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program.
- ▶ Ontario Works covers costs for vision care, dental, special diet allowance, as well as employment and school-related costs.
- ▶ For example; individuals may receive money when beginning an employment-related activity such as training, or starting part-time employment. They will receive a fixed amount to assist with purchasing new clothing, and/or training materials that may be necessary.
- ▶ Ontario Works also provides a Fair Discount Program to anyone from a low-income (new application process). This program provides a 36 per cent discount on TTC ride fares and a 21 per cent discount for adult monthly passes. Application can be found on www.Toronto.ca/community-people

Basic Needs Table for Renters

Number of Dependants other than a Spouse	Dependants 18 Years or Older	Dependants 0-17 Years	Recipient (See Note 1) Amount in dollars	Recipient and Spouse (See Note 2) Amount in dollars	Recipient and Spouse (See Note 3) Amount in dollars
0	0	0	\$786	\$1,134	\$1,569
1	0	1	\$786	\$1,134	\$1,569
1	1	0	\$1,219	\$1,355	\$1,790
2	0	2	\$786	\$1,134	\$1,569
2	1	1	\$1,219	\$1,355	\$1,790
2	2	0	\$1,441	\$1,602	\$2,037

Filing Taxes

- ▶ It is important to encourage Neighbours in Need to file their taxes yearly as it determines eligibility for certain government benefits and credits. It is crucial that taxes are filed if Neighbours are already receiving certain benefits/credits in order to prevent any interruption to benefit payments.
- ▶ Free tax clinics - Canada.ca (CRA Website)
- ▶ Toronto Public Library's offer tax clinics during the season

Other ways to help...

Community Resources

The City of Toronto, Region of Peel, Region of Durham and Region of York websites provides resources on programs and services for the following:

- ▶ Animals and Pets
- ▶ Children, Youth, Parents and Seniors
- ▶ Community Partners
- ▶ Financial and Employment Support
- ▶ Health and Wellness
- ▶ Housing and Shelter
- ▶ Public Safety and Alerts

211

211 is Canada's primary source of information for government and community-based, non-clinical health and social services. The free and confidential service can be accessed 24 hours a day, in more than 150 languages, by phone, chat, text, and web.

211 Ontario - [211 Ontario](#)

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[Older Adults](#)



[Youth](#)

211 Ontario Cont'd.

- ▶ Food Programs
- ▶ Cooking / Budgeting Programs
- ▶ Libraries - offer multiple programs/services i.e. Financial literacy
- ▶ Older Adult Programs
- ▶ Assistive Devices etc.
- ▶ Language / Interpretation Services
- ▶ Kids / Youth Services
- ▶ Mental Health Supports and Services

Legal Aid Ontario

- ▶ Legal Aid Ontario provides legal services for financially eligible, low-income Ontarians in the following areas; domestic violence, family law, immigration and refugee law, criminal law, civil mental health and poverty law.
- ▶ A call to Legal Aid Ontario's toll-free number gives you access to a wide range of general information and can apply for legal aid in over 300 languages.
- ▶ Our services - Legal Aid Ontario

Non-Insured Clinics

- ▶ cuias.org/wp/clinics-for-uninsured-people/#:~:text=Clinics for Uninsured People 1 Black Creek Community,%28Dufferin and St. Clair Ave. W%29 More items – List of Community Health Centres within the GTA
- ▶ [Community Health Centre Locations - Community Health Centres - Health Services in Your Community - MOHLTC \(gov.on.ca\)](#) - List of Community Health Centres outside of Toronto

Homelessness Crisis Update 2024

There continues to be a humanitarian crisis of refugee claimants requiring shelter across the country - particularly acute in Toronto. As of May 5, 2024, the City is providing support to 6,457 refugee claimants, with over 4,795 people inside the system, and 1,662 people outside the shelter system, accounting for 53% of all people provided with accommodation. Demand for shelter services has increased significantly over the past few years and is projected to continue throughout 2024 for reasons including, but not limited to, insufficient affordable housing supply, increased costs of living, inadequate wage and income supports, and an increase in the number of refugee claimants arriving in the city. Many people remain unable to access shelter beds each night.

Refugee Crisis in the GTA

- ▶ The number of refugee claimants needing shelter continues to rise, placing even more pressure on the system. At the end of 2023, there were more than 4,000 refugee claimants in the City's shelter system, as well as additional 1,300 refugee claimants being supported outside of the system. The City has received a commitment of \$200 million from the Federal government for 2023 for all costs for sheltering refugee claimants
- ▶ There is a high degree of risk for costs to increase due to ongoing increases in refugee arrivals
- ▶ The shelter sector is at capacity in Toronto.

Community Supports Available for Refugees



A free program for refugee claimants

REFUGEE HEARING ORIENTATIONS

Every other Thursday,
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

OCT 3

OCT 17

NOV 7

NOV 21

What is going to happen during my refugee hearing?



DEC 5

JAN 9

DEC 16*

* Monday

JAN 23



You will learn:

- What a virtual refugee hearing is
- How to be prepared
- What to expect, who participates

A great opportunity to meet the RPD officers who will explain what is going to happen during your refugee hearing and how to be ready.



Community Supports Available for Refugees Cont'd...

- ▶ FCJ Refugee Centre, <https://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org/>
- ▶ Romero House, <https://romerohouse.org/>
- ▶ Afghan Women's Organization Refugee and Immigrant Services, <https://afghanwomen.org/>
- ▶ Community Partners Serving Refugee Claimants
<https://www.toronto.ca/business-economy/partnerships-sponsorships-donations/donate/community-partners-serving-refugees/>
- ▶ Immigrant, Newcomer, and Refugee Services - Toronto Central
<https://www.torontocentralhealthline.ca/listServices.aspx?id=10566>

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Greater Toronto Central Council

- ▶ The Society is doing its part during these difficult times.
- ▶ You are one of over 1,400 Vincentians who are making 35,000 Home Visits a year, providing immediate assistance with food, clothing and beds to our Neighbours in Need.
- ▶ Greater Toronto Central Council also provides housing and services to persons in need.
- ▶ If you encounter someone living on the street and you feel they are in distress, please contact 311, non-emergency police services, or 911 if needed.
- ▶ If you as a Vincentian need help, or advice on accessing services, please email info@ssvptoronto.ca with your questions. We can also include my email if you would like for income assistance, referrals etc.