

Rental Grant

A Rental Grant is a once-only grant of two weeks rent to help meet some of the costs associated with moving into private rental accommodation. A Rental Grant helps people experiencing a housing crisis. It does not have to be repaid.

Am I eligible for a Rental Grant?

You may be eligible for a Rental Grant if you meet at least one of the following conditions.

- You have spent more than 28 continuous days in a department-approved centre (e.g. emergency housing, a women's shelter), or in accommodation arranged by an approved centre, and are applying for assistance within 14 days of leaving the approved centre.
- You have been discharged from a correctional facility after serving at least 12 months, and are applying for assistance within three months of your release.
- You have been discharged from a mental health facility within the last three months and you had been a resident of the facility for at least 12 months.
- You are currently being subjected to domestic violence and have appropriate supporting documentation.
- You are leaving a community-based rent scheme in Queensland to move into private rental accommodation, and are applying for assistance within 14 days of leaving.

You must also meet all of the following conditions.

- You have not previously received a Rental Grant.
- You live in Queensland.
- You are not currently living in the premises for which the Rental Grant is required.
- You are an Australian citizen, permanent resident, or have a temporary or permanent protection visa or possess a bridging visa.
- You meet the current income limit for a Rental Grant. Refer to the fact sheet *Income limits for Bond Loans and Rental Grants*.
- You do not own or part own:
 - a residential property, or
 - a caravan, a mobile home or a live-aboard boat, any of which are permanently connected to normal household utilities.
- You do not have more than \$2500 in cash and savings – combined for all household occupants (not including dependants).
- You do not have any outstanding debts with the department.
- You choose a property where the rent does not exceed 60% of the total household gross weekly income.
- All applicants listed on the tenancy agreement (other than dependant children) must be applicants for the Rental Grant.

In some circumstances, the above criteria may not apply. Please contact the department if you wish to discuss your circumstances.

How do I apply for a Rental Grant?

You apply for a Rental Grant by lodging a completed *Application for Private Rental Assistance* form with the department. You can access this form online or you can request it by contacting the department. Details of where to lodge the application are provided on the form.

What do I need to supply with my application?

You will need to supply:

- the completed *Application for Private Rental Assistance* form
- proof of income for each applicant
- at least two forms of identification for each applicant (refer to the fact sheet *Forms of identification for Bond Loans and Rental Grants*).
- written evidence that supports your eligibility to meet the listed Rental Grant criteria.

How will I know if the Rental Grant has been approved?

You will be informed by telephone or in writing if your application for a Rental Grant has been approved or declined.

If your application has been approved, a *Confirmation of Tenancy* form will be sent to you with your approval letter. The form must be completed by the lessor or lessor's agent of the accommodation you plan to live in, and returned to the department.

How is the Rental Grant paid?

When the department receives the completed *Confirmation of Tenancy* form from your lessor or lessor's agent, a payment up to the value of two weeks rent will be made.

The department will pay the Rental Grant by cheque or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

If you select payment by cheque, a cheque will be made payable to your lessor or lessor's agent and sent direct to you.

It is your responsibility to forward the Rental Grant cheque to your lessor or lessor's agent.

If you select payment by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), the payment will be directly deposited into the lessor or lessor's agent's nominated bank account.

For more information, please call 1300 880 882 or visit www.communities.qld.gov.au.