



## **Rent Assistance Scheme**

The Rent Assistance Scheme (RAS) 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 (RA), 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 RA 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 RA under the RAS 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 RA (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 RA Application.
5. If all family members have taken oath on or before 15th of the month, RA could be given as from the next month; if oath is taken on 16th or after, RA will be given as from the month after next.



6. If the RA beneficiaries are still in need of RA, they have to submit a fresh application to the Estate Office 3 months before the expiry of the RA period.
7. Households living in Dedicated Rehousing Estates Subsidised Rental Units would only be granted RA for a maximum cumulative period of 48 months. If the household still encounters financial difficulties after expiry of the maximum cumulative period of 48 months of RA, the household is required to move to Group A estates completed before 2006 <sup>Note 3</sup>. The household will have a maximum of 3 offers. During the waiting period for transfer, if the household has already received 48 months RA, the household will have to pay normal rent. After transfer, all household members are not allowed to apply for subsidised housing schemes using green forms status for the first 5 years (based on the commencement date of tenancy agreement) from the first commencement of tenancy of Group A estate. Tenants are not allowed to simultaneously apply for the RAS and Concessionary Rent.
8. RA beneficiaries should inform the HKHS to reassess their eligibility if the information supplied is changed and leading to a lower level of RA or they are no longer eligible for RA.
9. To prevent abuse, the HKHS will randomly select the applications for rigorous checking to ensure that the RA beneficiaries are still eligible for RA, both at the time of application and during the period of receiving RA.
10. If the beneficiaries have concealed or provided false statement or withheld any information in order to obtain RA 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 RA. 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.

Note 3: Have to pass the Domestic Property Test and Comprehensive Means Test (i.e. fulfill the prevailing income and asset limits of Group A estates). Tenant and all household member(s) aged 18 or above listed on the tenancy have taken oath on the information provided under the “Oaths and Declaration Ordinance” of Hong Kong Legislation.

### **Enquiries**

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

## 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.