

Accessing financial assistance for rent arrears

If your client is behind on paying their rent, they may be able to access funding to put towards any unpaid rent and help them stay housed.

It is difficult to secure funding for rent owing in public and community housing because the rent is generally calculated at a percentage of household income.

Organisation/ program	What is available	Eligibility criteria	How to apply
The local housing access point/ Private Rental Assistance Program (PRAP)	2 weeks rent in arrears or 2 weeks rent in advance once every 12 months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent is less than 55% of client income; and • Financially disadvantaged or victim/ survivor of family violence; and • Available for private rental only. 	<p>Contact client's local housing access point on 1800 825 955.</p> <p>Some Housing Access Points have an online application process, for example Launch Housing.</p>
Womens' Housing Limited/ Private Rental Assistance Program (PRAP)	2 weeks rent in arrears or 2 weeks rent in advance once every 12 months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A woman living in a private rental, who is at least 14 days behind in her rent; or • A woman living in a private rooming house, who is at least 7 days behind in her rent; and • Rent is less than 55% of client income. 	<p>Contact Womens housing on (03) 9412 6868 or reception@womenshousing.com.au.</p> <p>Decisions are made every Monday afternoon, so it is important to call Monday morning. There may be flexibility if the matter is urgent, or your client is at risk of homelessness.</p>

<p>Family Violence Flexible Support Program</p>	<p>Financial support to set up or sustain a private rental tenancy.</p>	<p>The Family Violence Support Program has specific detailed eligibility criteria.</p> <p>The client must be receiving support from a specialist family violence practitioner or similar.</p>	<p>It is best to confirm with the family violence support worker involved with your client.</p>
<p>Queen's Fund</p>	<p>Up to \$350 per year for rent or other needs.</p>	<p>Single women and their children living in Victoria, who are in crisis, distress or emergency situations.</p>	<p>You need to be a social worker or similarly qualified person to apply on behalf of a client.</p> <p>You can submit an online application via the the Queen's fund website.</p> <p>It is available on the third Monday of the month (the second Monday in December).</p>
<p>Good Shepherd No Interest Loans</p>	<p>Up to \$3000 no interest loan. Given this is a loan it must be paid back.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earn less than \$70,000 (before tax) per annum for a single person or \$100,000 if you have a partner or children; or • Have experienced family violence in the last 10 years; or • Have a health care card/ pension card; and • Show you can repay the loan. 	<p>Find a community service provider; or Call Good Shepherd's No Interest Loan team.</p>