

CITY OF RENTON - HOUSING REPAIR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**1. What are the basic requirements to be eligible for the program?**

Own a home within the Renton City Limits for at least the last 12 months. Not planning on selling home for at least 1 year. Have a total household adjusted gross income within the current HUD Maximum Income Guidelines (see current application).

**2. How long does it take to approve an application for eligibility into the program?**

Our goal is to have your eligibility evaluated within two weeks after completed application and all supporting documents are received in our office. You will be notified if you are accepted into the program.

**3. What is the first step after being approved?**

- The first service will be a home assessment by our service technician that will evaluate the overall condition, as well as how healthy the home is for the occupants. An assessment will take between two to three hours and you or adult must be home when we visit. Our goal is to perform assessments within two weeks of approval and program acceptance. An assessment is required before receiving services.
- After your home assessment has been reviewed in our office by the Housing Repair Coordinator we will inform you what services will be provided and will call you to make an appointment to schedule them.

**4. How long does my eligibility last when I am accepted into the program?**

You must recertify eligibility once every 24 months. The recertification process and paperwork is the same as the initial application.

**5. Are mobile homes eligible for the same work as single family homes?**

No. The program does not serve mobile homes older than 1977, 1976 no, 1977 yes.

**6. If I apply and am turned down because my income is too high, can I reapply if my income changes?**

- If a household is deemed ineligible for services and if the family's income or family size changes you may reapply due to the extenuating circumstances.
- Maximum expenditure is \$2,000 and there must be a health or safety need that requires immediate attention.

**7. Does the Housing Repair Assistance Program perform services for people who rent their homes?**

No, the program does not offer services for homes that are not owner occupied. Repair and maintenance of rental properties are the responsibility of the property owner.

**8. I rent out part of my house to a tenant. Are they listed on the application?**

No. A tenant is not considered a member of the household. The income you receive from the tenant is considered part of your income and is reported on line 17 of your 1040 tax return.

**9. If I live outside of the City of Renton but have a Renton address, does the City of Renton Housing Repair Program Assistance Program cover me?**

- No. Our program only provides services to residents within the Renton City limits. To verify if you are in the City limits go to [www.nwmaps.net](http://www.nwmaps.net).
- If you are outside the city limits, call King County Housing Repair at 206-263-9095 to check your eligibility for their programs.

**10. Does the Housing Repair Assistance Program perform repairs on homes that are being prepared for sale or have been recently purchased?**

- No. Services are not available for homes that are, or will be for sale in the next 12 months.
- Services are not available to homeowners until they have been owner occupants for at least 12 months.
- If found to be for sale home will be suspended.

**11. Does the Housing Repair Assistance Program paint inside or outside of homes?**

- No. Painting is not covered under the program's guidelines.
- HRAP will supply paint for any church group, service organization, or neighborhood organization officially recognized by the City of Renton Neighborhood Program so that they may paint a house in their parish or neighborhood.
- For information on the Renton Neighborhood Program call the City of Renton's Neighborhood Coordinator at 425-430-6548.

**12. What are the cost guidelines of the program?**

- The Housing Repair Assistance Program is a minor home repair program which has a maximum \$6,000 staff discretion of acceptance into the program.
- When a maximum yearly limit is reached, clients receive a letter notifying them that the yearly limit has been reached and they will no longer be eligible for services until the next calendar year. If the total cost of an eligible service exceeds the City's maximum yearly limit, the homeowner client has the option of paying the additional costs over the maximum yearly allowance in order to have the repairs performed.
- There is a \$10,000 10 year limit per residence.

**13. When is a person considered disabled?**

- The definition of a disability from the US Census says people are disabled who:
  - Use a wheelchair or have used another special aid for six months or longer;
  - Are unable to perform one or more functional activities: seeing, hearing, having one's speech understood, lifting and carrying, walking up a flight of stairs, walking or needing assistance with activities of daily living (getting around inside the home, getting in or out of bed or a chair, dressing, bathing, eating, and using the toilet) or instrumental activities of daily living (going outside the home, keeping track of money and bills, preparing meals, doing light housework and using the telephone);
  - Are prevented from working at a job or doing housework;
  - Have a selected condition including autism, cerebral palsy, Alzheimer's disease, senility or dementia, or mental retardation, or
  - Are under age 65 years of age and are covered by Medicare or receive Social Security Income (SSI) benefits.