

Who is eligible to be on the Public Housing Register?

To be eligible for public housing, a person must meet all of the following criteria:

Residency

If you're getting a main benefit from WINZ (e.g. superannuation), you meet the residency criteria.

If you don't get a main benefit from WINZ, you need to meet **one** of these residency criteria:

- you're a New Zealand citizen
- you have a resident visa or permanent resident visa and have lived in NZ continuously for at least 2 years since getting it
- you're recognised as a refugee by Immigration New Zealand
- you're recognised as a protected person by Immigration New Zealand
- you have a Christchurch Response Visa, or get a Special Needs Grant because you came to New Zealand on a temporary visa to be with your NZ partner and your relationship ended due to domestic violence.

Income and assets

Generally, you need to have:

Income under:

- \$779.21 a week (after tax) if you're single with no children
- \$1,198.77 a week (after tax) if you have a partner or children

Cash assets worth less than \$42,700.

You must have a serious housing need.

Your current housing situation, including: the property's physical condition, if the property has basic living facilities, over-crowding, how secure your tenancy is, whether your current property or area is safe for you and suitable for your medical or physical needs, whether you could afford to rent privately, how difficult it is to find a private rental that meets your needs, whether you could manage long term in a private rental.

How to apply for public housing

Step 1 - Call Senior Services on [0800 552 002](tel:0800552002)

Step 2 - Discuss your situation

WINZ staff will talk with you about your situation and look at ways they can help you. This includes checking what support you might be able to get to move into private housing, for example, help with rent or bond.

If they think you may qualify for public housing, you will be booked into a housing assessment interview. This is usually done over the phone but a face to face appointment can be requested.

Step 3 - Attend a housing assessment interview

The interview will take about an hour. Staff at WINZ will:

Talk with you about your situation and the type of housing you need.
Confirm you meet the criteria for public housing.

You may/will need to provide some documents and these may include:

- proof of who you are, such as your birth certificate, passport or driver licence
- proof of any income (after tax) you've got in the last 52 weeks, such as wages, holiday pay, family tax credits and any other income
- proof of any assets you have and their value
your business accounts, if you have your own business
- trust documents, if you're involved in a trust, such as trust deed, deed of debt, gift statements, or accounts

If you qualify for public housing, you'll go on the Public Housing Register.

Step 4 - Wait for a property

You may be offered a property by CMM or another housing provider. The length of time you have to wait depends on:

- how urgently you need a property
- how quickly a suitable property becomes available
- what your needs are
- the number of other people waiting with urgent needs

People with the greatest needs are placed first, when suitable properties become available. A suitable property is one that meets your housing needs as agreed during your interview.