

**CURRICULUM RESOURCE**

**Newcomers to Ontario – Learning about Housing Using Settlement.org**

Competency	Task Group	Level
Competency A - Find and Use Information	A1. Read continuous text	1
Competency A - Find and Use Information	A1. Read continuous text	2
Competency B - Communicate Ideas and Information	B1. Interact with others	2
Competency B - Communicate Ideas and Information	B2. Write continuous text	1
Competency B - Communicate Ideas and Information	B2. Write continuous text	2
Competency D - Use Digital Technology	N/A	2

**Goal Paths (check all that apply)**

- Employment
- Apprenticeship
- Secondary School Credit
- Postsecondary
- Independence

**Embedded Skills for Success (check all that apply)**

- Adaptability
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creativity and innovation
- Digital
- Numeracy
- Problem-Solving
- Reading
- Writing

**NOTES:**

## Acknowledgments



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The opinions expressed in this report are those of Community Literacy of Ontario and do not necessarily reflect those of our funders.

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# NEWCOMERS TO ONTARIO LEARNING ABOUT HOUSING USING SETTLEMENT.ORG

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## Introduction – For Practitioners

**Newcomers to Ontario – Learning about Housing Using Settlement.org** will help newcomers who are adult learners in Literacy and Basic Skills programs explore the Settlement.org website and learn about the critical topic of housing.

While this curriculum resource was specifically written for newcomers, the content may have broader application to other adult learners who are interested in this topic.

**Newcomers to Ontario – Learning about Housing Using Settlement.org** embeds the Government of Canada’s Skills for Success model. Using the Settlement.org website places a large focus on digital and problem solving skills. The tasks and activities also include some of the other Skills for Success.

Tasks and activities align with the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework.

This curriculum resource was researched and written by Jette Cosburn and Joanne Kaattari for Community Literacy of Ontario in the autumn of 2023.

### **This resource has been designed for learners with Level 2 skills.**

This resource explores the Settlement.org website. Learners will require a computer, tablet, or other digital device to fully use this curriculum.

### **Skills for Success**

In May 2021, the Government of Canada introduced an update to its Essential Skills model. The updated model has been renamed Skills for Success.

There are nine Skills for Success:

- Adaptability
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Creativity and Innovation
- Digital
- Numeracy
- Problem Solving
- Reading
- Writing

As Settlement.org is a website, this resource embeds the use of **Digital Skills**. Digital skills mean your ability to use digital technology to find, create, and share information and content.

Often, Settlement.org is used to help find solutions to a problem. For this reason, the skill of **Problem Solving** is also supported in this resource. Problem solving is your ability to work through a problem or challenge and find solutions or ways to deal with it.

To find out more about the Skills for Success, visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/initiatives/skills-success.html>

### Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework (OALCF)

The OALCF is a competency-based framework that Ontario's Literacy and Basic Skills programs use to develop programs for each person receiving literacy support. For more information, visit the Ontario Government's website at [https://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/lbs\\_oalcf\\_overview.html](https://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng/eopg/programs/lbs_oalcf_overview.html)



## Section 1 – Introduction to Settlement.org



Moving to a new country is challenging.

It is often difficult to know where or how to find out about

- housing
- schools
- healthcare
- income support
- jobs
- other important services



The Settlement.org website is extremely helpful for newcomers to Ontario. This website was created by the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI). It is free to use this website.

The goal of the Settlement.org website is to help recent immigrants to Ontario find information and services. Settlement.org is updated regularly.

In this curriculum resource, we will review the Housing section of Settlement.org. This review will help you learn how to explore the website. This website is easy to use, and it will help you to find the information and resources you need.

This short video tells you more about Settlement.org:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXADY0mSgUE&t=30s>

## Overview of Settlement.org

Here is the link to Settlement.org: <https://settlement.org/>



The Settlement.org website has many topics and lots of information. You can go to any of these topics to help you find the information you need.

Settlement.org covers the following topics.

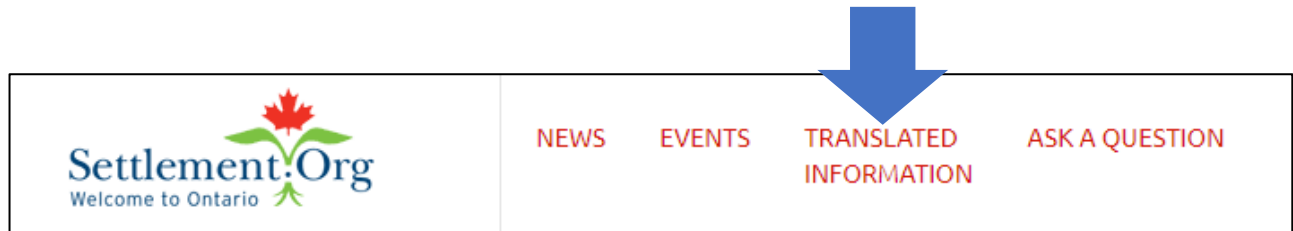
- My First Days
- Immigration and Citizenship
- **Housing**
- Health
- Employment
- Education
- Community
- Legal Services
- Daily Life



In this curriculum resource, we focus on the topic of **Housing**.

## Translated Information

Some of the information on Settlement.org is available in other languages. Look under “Translated Information” at the top of the website to see what’s available (<https://settlement.org/translated-information/>).



### ✓ Task:

It can be hard to find information when English isn’t your first language.

- List the steps that someone would take to get housing information in Ukrainian on Settlement.org.
- List three of the topics that are available in Ukrainian.

\*\*Practitioners: Answers on Page 34

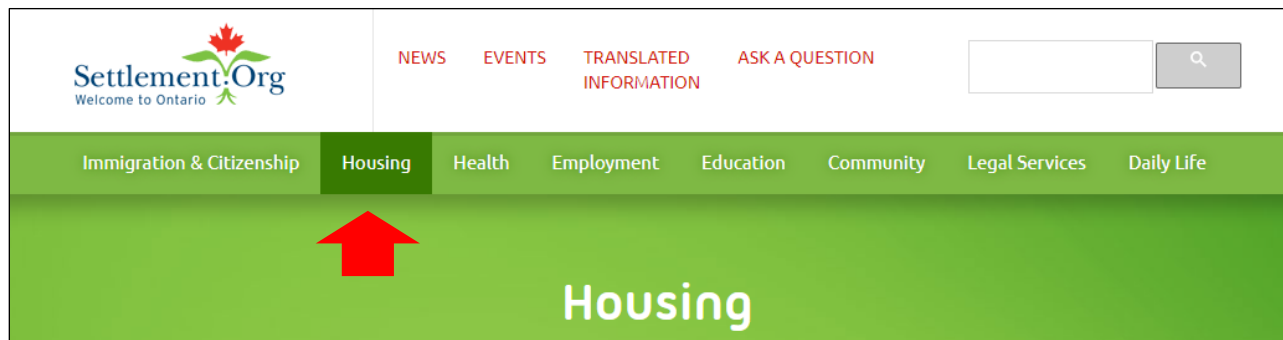
OALCF Competencies, Task Groups, and Level Indicators: A1.1, A1.2, B2.1, D.2

SFS: Digital, Reading, Writing



## Section 2 – Learning about Housing in Ontario

Housing is a very important issue for most newcomers! Settlement.org will help you learn about housing in Ontario. Go to the Settlement.org website at: <https://settlement.org/> and click on the **Housing** tab.



The Housing section of the Settlement.org website shares important information on many topics.

In this curriculum resource, we will explore four of these topics:

- Living in Ontario
- Rent a Home
- Subsidized Housing
- Emergency and Short-Term Housing



There are other housing topics on this website that you might want to learn about on your own:

- Buy a Home
- Seniors Housing
- Home safety



## Living in Ontario



The **Living in Ontario** section of Settlement.org shares information on many things. Deciding where to live and how to find a place to live are very important decisions.



<https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/living-in-ontario/>

There are many helpful topics available in the **Living in Ontario** part of the website. We will explore one of them:

- Where should I live in Ontario?



## Where should I live in Ontario?

Ontario is a very large province! It is Canada's second-largest province in land size. It covers more than 1 million square kilometres or 415,000 square miles.

Deciding where to live in such a large province can be difficult. **Where Should I Live in Ontario** shares some helpful advice.

Newcomers might choose where to live depending on factors such as:

- Where are you most likely to find a job?
- Do you want to live near family and friends?
- Do you like living in urban or rural areas?
- Is access to public transportation important?
- Are there social, cultural, or religious activities that you want nearby?
- Are there schools, colleges, or universities that you want nearby?
- Are there medical services that you need nearby?

This section of the Settlement.org website also shares information on Community Profiles, and it shares several websites that have good sources of information about Ontario.

One helpful website to visit is "Communities in Ontario". It was created by the Ontario government. This website tells you about the different communities in Ontario. Go to:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/immigrate-to-ontario>



### Learn More

For more information on this topic go to <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/living-in-ontario/housing-basics/where-should-i-live-in-ontario/>

✓ **Task:**

Look at the factors on Page 10 that newcomers might think about when deciding where to live.

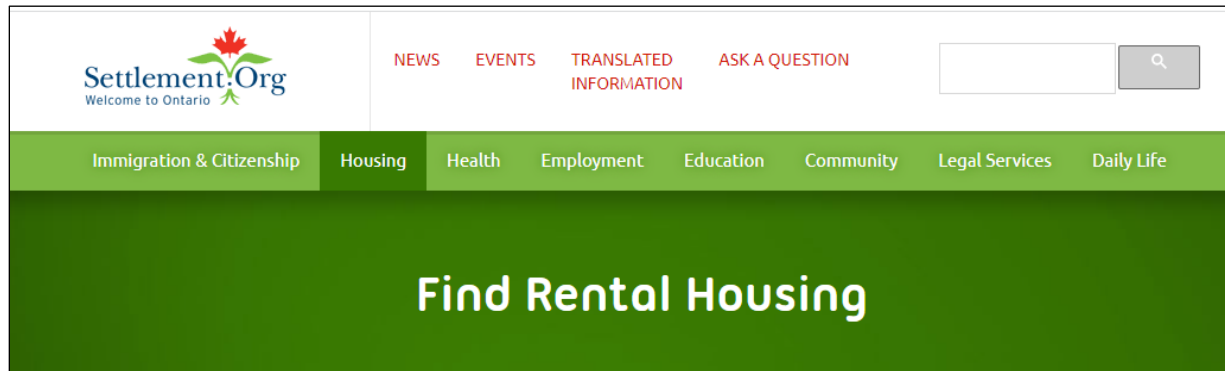
- List two factors that you feel might be **most important for a single parent with three children who has recently moved to Canada** to consider when deciding where to live. Include why you feel these are important factors.
  - Share with your teacher or classmates the two factors that you feel might be most important **for a single parent with three children who has recently moved to Canada** to consider when deciding where to live and talk about why you chose them.
  
- Look again at the factors on Page 10 that newcomers might think about when finding a place to live. List two other things that you might think about when finding a place to live, like having a park nearby.
  - Share with your teacher or classmates the two other things you might also think about.

**\*\*Practitioners:**

OALCF Competencies, Task Groups, and Level Indicators: A1.1, A1.2, B1.2, B2.2,  
SFS: Communication, Problem Solving, Reading, Writing



## Find Rental Housing



There is a lot of helpful information for newcomers under **Find Rental Housing**.

We will cover these three topics under **Find Rental Housing**:

- What are the vacancy rates in Ontario?
- How much does it cost to rent an apartment in Ontario?
- How do I look for rental housing?



### ! Learn More

For more information on this topic go to <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/find-rental-housing/>

## Vacancy Rates

It can be difficult to find housing in Ontario. Many parts of Canada and Ontario have a housing crisis. This means that there are not many places available to rent. It also means that housing is very expensive.

There are low vacancy rates in parts of Ontario. The vacancy rate is the percentage of housing that is available for rent. A low vacancy rate means there are not many places available to rent. It is easier to find housing where the vacancy rate is high.

Vacancy rates are not the same in different parts of Ontario. Often vacancy rates are low in larger cities in Ontario. It can be very hard to find housing to rent in the bigger cities such as Toronto. Smaller or more northern communities sometimes have more housing available for rent.

## Costs

It is very expensive to rent in most cities in Canada (and Ontario). Our biggest cities are usually the most expensive. Often, it is cheaper to rent in smaller communities or in more northern areas.

For example, according to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), these are the rental costs for Toronto. Toronto is the biggest city in Ontario. **However, since these statistics were collected, rental costs have gone up a lot.**

- It costs an average of \$2,500 per month to rent a one-bedroom apartment in Toronto.
- Renting a two-bedroom apartment costs an average of \$3,400 per month.

According to the CMHC, here are the rental costs in Sudbury. Sudbury is a medium-sized city in northern Ontario. **These costs would be higher now.**

- It costs an average of \$1,449 per month to rent a one-bedroom apartment in Sudbury.
- Renting a two-bedroom apartment costs an average of \$1,599 per month.

Click this link to learn about rental costs in many parts of Ontario:

<https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/basics/how-much-does-it-cost-to-rent-an-apartment-in-ontario/>

 **Task:**

Use the Settlement.org website to look at the rental rates in Barrie  
<https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/basics/how-much-does-it-cost-to-rent-an-apartment-in-ontario/>

- How much is the average rate to rent a one-bedroom apartment in Barrie?
- How much is the average rate to rent a two-bedroom apartment in Barrie?
- How could a single person who earns less than the average rent costs in Barrie afford to live in Barrie? List two possible solutions and why they could work.
- Share ideas and exchange opinions with your teacher and classmates. Work together to find more solutions.

\*\*Practitioners: Answers on Page 34

OALCF Competencies, Task Groups, and Level Indicators: A1.1, B1.2, B2.2, D.2

SFS: Collaboration, Communication, Digital, Problem Solving, Reading, Writing



## How do I look for rental housing?

Settlement.org shares some great ideas for looking for rental housing:

- Look at community bulletin boards.
  - These can be found in:
    - community centres
    - grocery stores
    - libraries
    - faith communities
    - seniors' centres
- Ask your family, friends, and co-workers.
- Check rental listing websites and other online resources.
- Look in your community for signs saying, “for rent”.
- Check with community housing centres.
- Check with social services.



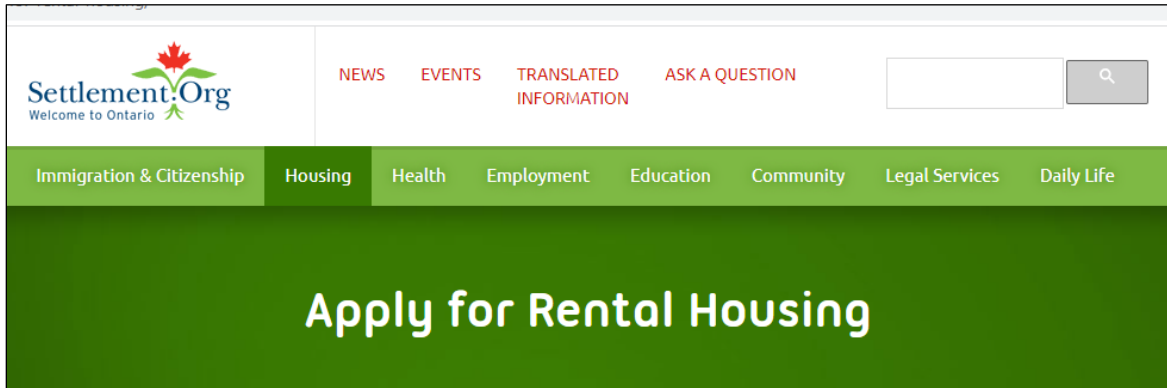
### ! Learn More

For more information on this topic, visit <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/find-rental-housing/how-do-i-look-for-rental-housing/>



We also strongly recommend asking 211 Ontario for help looking for housing! You can call 211 or go to their website at <https://211ontario.ca/search/>

## Apply for Rental Housing



There is a lot of helpful information under the **Apply for Rental Housing** section of the website.

We will cover these three topics in **Apply for Rental Housing**:

- What kind of questions can a landlord ask?
- What documents do landlords ask for?
- What is a lease?



## What kind of questions can a landlord ask?



Legally, landlords can ask you certain questions. But there are other questions they cannot ask you.

Here are some questions a landlord **CAN** ask you:

- What is your income?
- Where do you work?
- How many people will be living with you?

Here are some questions a landlord **CANNOT** ask you:

- Are you married, single, or divorced?
- What is your ethnic background?
- What is your religion?
- How old are you?

### Learn More

If you want to learn more about this topic, go to:

<https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/apply-for-rental-housing/what->

## What documents do landlords ask for?



Before they decide to rent to you, landlords will want to be sure that you can pay your rent each month. They will also want to know that you will take good care of their house or apartment.

Landlords will probably ask you for documents to prove you have enough money to pay the rent. Legally, a landlord can ask you about your income and credit history.

This could include asking for:

- proof of income from your employer
- proof of income from social services
- bank statements
- your credit history

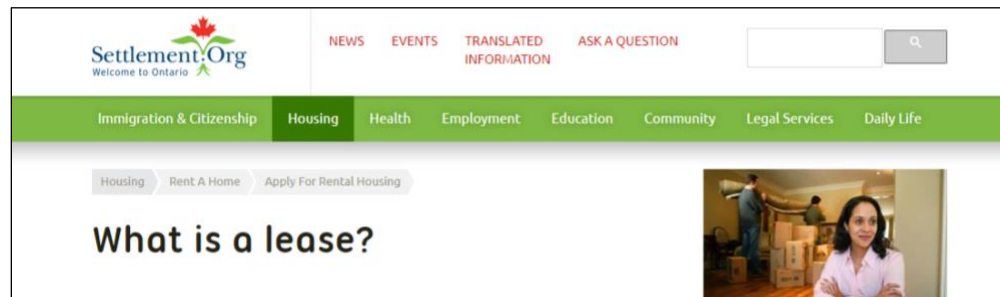
They may also ask for references to show you would be a good tenant. A reference is a letter from someone who can confirm you will pay your rent and take good care of the rental property. The reference could come from an employer, a former landlord, or someone from a community agency or business.

Some of this information may be difficult for a newcomer to provide. This is especially true for people who have not been in Canada for very long.

### Learn More

Learn more about this topic here: <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/apply-for-rental-housing/what-documents-do-landlords-ask-for/>

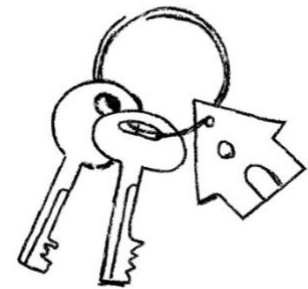
## What is a lease?



Once a landlord has agreed to rent their house or apartment to you, they will ask you to sign a lease.

A lease is a legal agreement between you and your landlord. You will be asked to sign a lease when you rent:

- a home
- an apartment
- a room in a house



Ontario requires all landlords to use a standard form for a lease.

Here are some of the items included in a lease:

- the names and contact information of the tenants
- the landlord's name and contact information
- the length of the lease (a lease is normally for 12 months)
- the amount of the rent
- when the rent is due each month
- what is included in the rent
  - are utilities such as heat and hydro included or are they extra?
  - is parking included in the rent?
- when the rent will increase

### ! Learn More

Learn more about leases here: <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/apply-for-rental-housing/what-is-a-lease/>

**✓ Task:**

Look at the list of documents on Page 18 that a landlord might need.

- List two documents that can be difficult for someone to get.
- List two possible solutions to not having these documents.
- Discuss with your teacher or classmates some potential solutions to not having some of these documents.

**\*\*Practitioners:**

OALCF Competencies, Task Groups, and Level Indicators: A1.1, B1.2, B2.2

SFS: Collaboration, Communication, Problem Solving, Reading, Writing

There are so many topics related to applying for rental housing on Settlement.org. We simply could not explore them all. Be sure to look around this website for issues that are important to you.

For example, here are two important topics that could be reviewed as needed.



## Tenants' rights

Settlement.org has helpful information on tenants' rights.

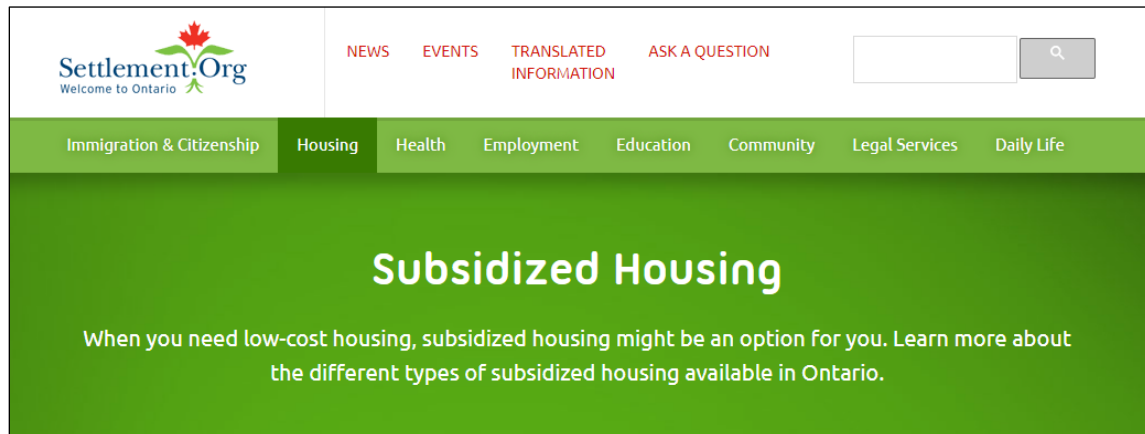
- See: **What are my rights as a tenant?** <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/tenant-rights-and-responsibilities/what-are-my-rights-as-a-tenant/>

## Discrimination and housing access

The Steps to Justice website has excellent information on its website.

- See: **Discrimination and renting a place to live:** <https://stepstojustice.ca/legal-topic/housing-law/renting-new-place-live/discrimination-1/all/>

## Subsidized Housing



The screenshot shows the Settlement.org website. The header includes the logo "Settlement.Org Welcome to Ontario" and navigation links: NEWS, EVENTS, TRANSLATED INFORMATION, and ASK A QUESTION. A search bar is also present. Below the header is a green navigation bar with links: Immigration & Citizenship, Housing (highlighted), Health, Employment, Education, Community, Legal Services, and Daily Life. The main content area has a green background with the title "Subsidized Housing" and the text: "When you need low-cost housing, subsidized housing might be an option for you. Learn more about the different types of subsidized housing available in Ontario."

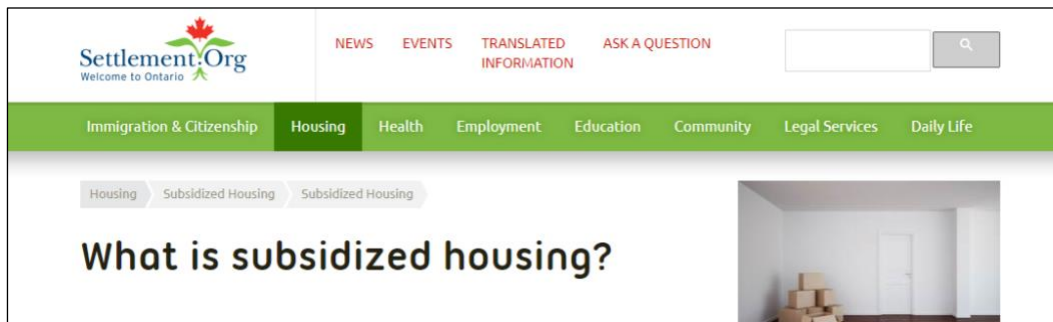
The **Subsidized Housing** section of Settlement.org explains what subsidized housing is and how you can apply.

We cover these three topics in the **Subsidized Housing** section of this resource:

- What is subsidized housing?
- Am I eligible for subsidized housing?
- How can I apply for subsidized housing?



## What is subsidized housing?



Subsidized housing is when you get help to pay your rent each month. This support usually comes from government funding.

Subsidized housing was created to make housing more affordable for people with low incomes. Under subsidized housing, usually, the amount of rent you pay is set based on your income, not the normal cost of the rent. This is called “rent-geared-to-income”.

**It is very difficult to get subsidized housing. The waiting lists are often many years long.**

Subsidized housing is provided by different types of organizations. Subsidized housing providers include:

- local Housing Corporations (formerly called “public housing”)
- nonprofit housing
- co-operative housing (housing co-ops)

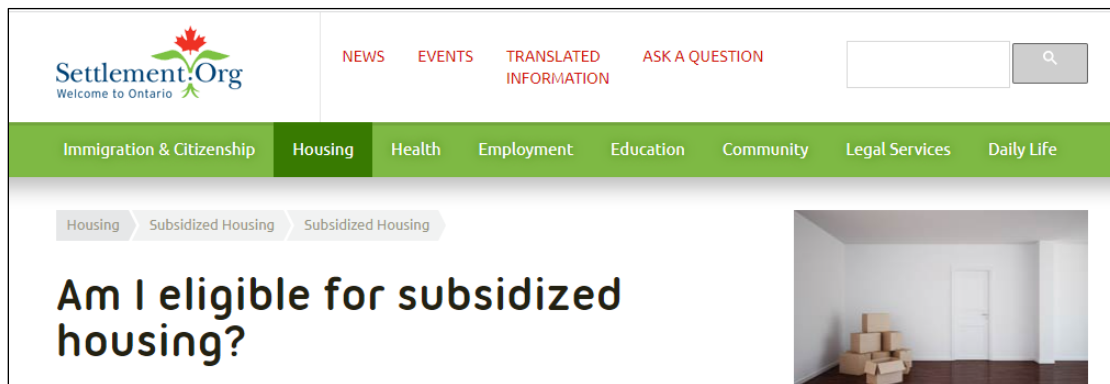
Sometimes, people with low incomes can apply for subsidized housing. Other times, subsidized housing is reserved for specific groups, such as:

- seniors
- Indigenous people
- people with disabilities
- survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking
- people who are homeless

### Learn More

You can learn more at: <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/subsidized-housing/subsidized-housing/what-is-subsidized-housing/>

## Am I eligible for subsidized housing?



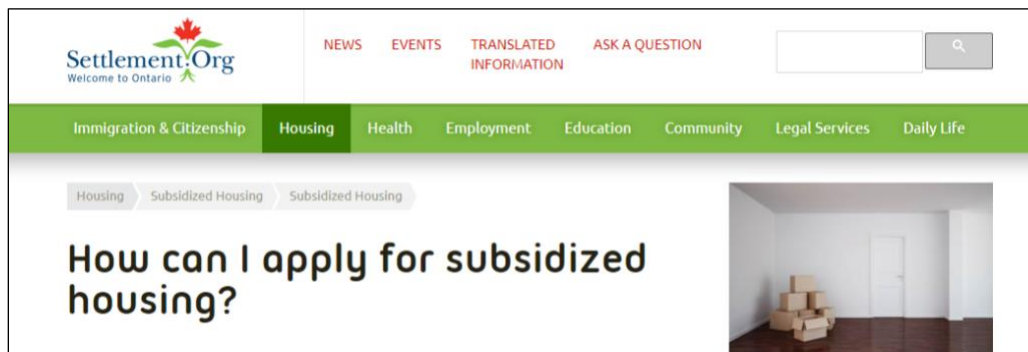
Your family income and assets will be assessed to see if you are eligible for subsidized housing. There are many other requirements as well.

Settlement.org has an excellent section of its website that shares all of the eligibility requirements: <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/subsidized-housing/subsidized-housing/am-i-eligible-for-subsidized-housing/>

Also, here is an example of eligibility requirements from the City of Toronto: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/employment-social-support/housing-support/rent-gear-to-income-subsidy/rent-gear-to-income-housing-eligibility/>



## How can I apply for subsidized housing?



Settlement.org website tells you all about the application process in this part of their website: <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/subsidized-housing/subsidized-housing/how-can-i-apply-for-subsidized-housing/>

In summary, you apply for subsidized housing by contacting the **coordinated access centre** in your area.

These **coordinated access centres** have one application form to apply for all the subsidized housing available in your community.

You can find a list of all coordinated access centres in Ontario at:

- [https://onpha.on.ca/Content/About/About\\_non-profit\\_housing/Coordinated\\_access\\_centres.aspx](https://onpha.on.ca/Content/About/About_non-profit_housing/Coordinated_access_centres.aspx)



You can also find information about the coordinated access centre in your area by contacting 211 Ontario.

You can call 211 or go to their website at <https://211ontario.ca/contact/>

**✓ Task:**

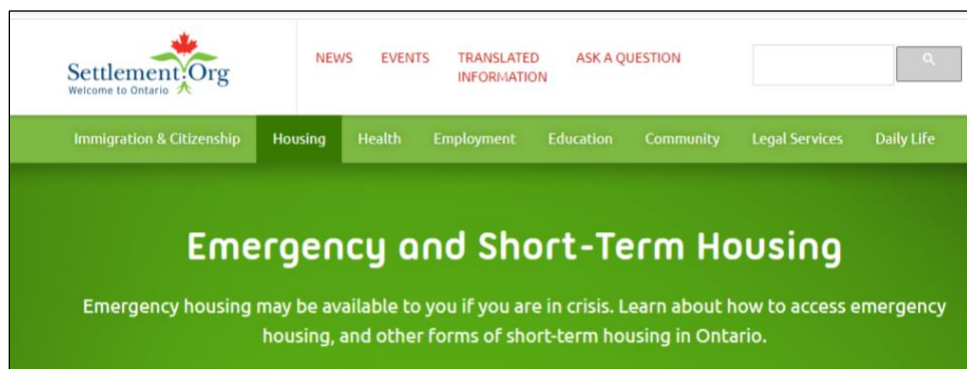
- Visit the Coordinated Access Centre website at [https://onpha.on.ca/Content/About/About\\_non-profit\\_housing/Coordinated\\_access\\_centres.aspx](https://onpha.on.ca/Content/About/About_non-profit_housing/Coordinated_access_centres.aspx)
  - List two access groups within your region. Include all the contact information for each access group.

\*\*Practitioners:

OALCF Competencies, Task Groups, and Level Indicators: A1.2, B2.1, D.2  
SFS: Digital, Reading, Writing



## Emergency and Short-Term Housing



The **Emergency and Short-Term Housing** section of Settlement.org explains what emergency housing is and how it can be accessed.

Emergency housing is available for people who are homeless or in crisis.

People become homeless for many reasons, including:

- losing their job and not having money to pay the rent
- being evicted from their home
- health or mental health problems that keep them from working
- separating from a partner and having to move out
- their parents might ask them to leave the family home

There are shelters available for homeless people. Some shelters are available for anyone. Other shelters are set up for specific groups such as women, families, men, youth, or refugees. Due to the housing crisis, there are many homeless people now. The shelters are often full.

### Learn More

For more information on emergency shelters, go to:

<https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/emergency-and-short-term-housing/>

There is also safe emergency housing for women at risk of abuse or violence. This is called crisis housing. If you are a woman at risk of abuse or violence, you can contact the Assaulted Women's Helpline at <https://www.awhl.org/>.

**If you are afraid and are experiencing violence, you can contact the Police by calling 911.**



You can find an emergency shelter by contacting 211 Ontario. They are available 24 hours a day, seven days per week. 211 Ontario provides services in many different languages.

You can call 211 or visit their website at <https://211ontario.ca/search/>

 **Task:**

It is important to be familiar with emergency support. You never know when something might happen where you, or a family member, or a friend, or someone else who you know might need that support.

Visit the 211 Ontario website <https://211ontario.ca/search/>

- Enter your city in the location text box at the top left side of the page.
- Click on the **Emergency/Crisis** icon.
- Click on **Shelters from Abuse**.
- Browse the topics on the left side of the page and make a list of topics that you could look at in the future with regards to emergency or crisis **housing**.
- If you know anyone who might benefit from your list, be sure to share it.

**\*\*Practitioners:**

OALCF Competencies, Task Groups, and Level Indicators: A1.1, B2.1, D.2  
SFS: Digital, Reading, Writing

## Section 3 – Supporting Activity

### Instructions for Practitioners

After sharing the content from this resource with learners, you can ask them to complete the following activity. This **supporting activity** can be used for learners interested in knowing more about newcomers and housing. This activity is suitable for one learner or for a small group of learners. It can be changed to meet individual needs.

This activity uses elements of the Ontario Adult Literacy Curriculum Framework's (OALCF) Competencies with Level 1 and 2 Tasks and Indicators.

The tasks in this activity also include entry and intermediate components and elements of a variety of the Skills for Success (SFS). Visit the SFS website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/training/initiatives/skills-success.html> if you would like more information about the SFS level components and elements used throughout this resource.

A computer or tablet will be used during this activity to access the Settlement.org website.



## Introduction to the Activity

Adults in Literacy and Basic Skills programs often face many challenges. One of these challenges is finding housing. Finding housing can be even more difficult for newcomers to Canada.

In this resource, we have explored the Settlement.org website and how it can be used to support newcomers or anyone looking to find housing.

This practitioner-led activity uses skills and competencies needed to support learner goals. The individual tasks also include a sampling of the Skills for Success required by anyone who is facing a housing challenge.

### Activity: Task 1 – Think about things that affect housing decisions.

There are many things that need to be considered when someone is looking for housing. This resource explores some of these things via the Settlement.org website.

Ask learners to think about a family of two adults and two young children. This family has just arrived in Ontario from another country. One adult has good English-speaking skills, but no one else in the family speaks any English.

- Ask learners to use this resource and the Settlement.Org website at <https://settlement.org/> to make a list of three things that they think this family might need to think about and why as they look for housing.
- Ask learners to share their list with their teacher or classmates.
- Ask learners to talk about their list and to exchange ideas with their teacher or classmates.

\*\*Practitioners' Answer Key: Page 35

### OALCF A1.2, B1.2, B2.2, and D.2:

Competency A: Find and Use Information

- Task Group: Read Continuous Text (A1)
- A1.2: Read texts to locate and connect ideas and information

## Competency B: Communicate Ideas and Information

- Task Group: Interact with others (B1)
- B1.2: Initiate and maintain interactions with one or more persons to discuss, explain, or exchange information and opinions
- Task Group: Write continuous text (B2)
- B2.2: Write texts to explain and describe information and ideas

## Competency D: Use Digital Technology

- Task Group: Not applicable
- D.2: Perform well-defined, multi-step digital tasks

**Embedded Skills for Success:**

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Digital
- Problem Solving
- Reading
- Writing

**Activity: Task 2 – Find information about different places to live in Ontario.**

It can be hard to decide where you should live in a new country. As mentioned on Page 10, the **Where Should I Live in Ontario** section of the Settlement.org website has good information to help people find out more about different locations in Ontario.

- Ask learners to visit the Where Should I Live in Ontario section of the Settlement.org website <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/living-in-ontario/housing-basics/where-should-i-live-in-ontario/>
- Ask learners to list the four types of city/municipal governments' websites mentioned under the topic of **Community Profiles**.
- Ask learners to list five types of information that can be found on these websites.
- Encourage learners to further explore the website links that interest them.

\*\*Practitioners' Answer Key: Page 36

**OALCF A1.2, B2.1 and D.2:**

## Competency A: Find and Use Information

- Task Group: Read Continuous Text (A1)
- A1.2: Read texts to locate and connect ideas and information

**Competency B: Communicate Ideas and Information**

- Task Group: Write continuous text (B2)
- B2.1: Write brief texts to convey simple ideas and factual information

**Competency D: Use Digital Technology**

- Task Group: Not applicable
- D.2: Perform well-defined, multi-step digital tasks

**Embedded Skills for Success:**

- Digital
- Reading
- Writing

**Activity: Task 3– Describe benefits and challenges of finding information about different places to live in Ontario on the Settlement.org website.**

It can be hard to decide where you should live in a new country. The Settlement.org website has good information to help newcomers find out more about different locations in Ontario.

- Ask learners to write one paragraph about how a newcomer might benefit by using the Settlement.org website to find information about different places to live in Ontario.
- Ask learners to write one paragraph about a possible challenge a newcomer might have when using the website to find information about different places to live in Ontario.
- Ask learners to exchange ideas about their different benefits and challenges with their teacher or classmates.

**OALCF A1.2, B1.2, B2.2, and D.2:****Competency A: Find and Use Information**

- Task Group: Read Continuous Text (A1)
- A1.2: Read texts to locate and connect ideas and information

**Competency B: Communicate Ideas and Information**

- Task Group: Interact with others (B1)
- B1.2: Initiate and maintain interactions with one or more persons to discuss, explain, or exchange information and opinions

- Task Group: Write continuous text (B2)
- B2.2: Write texts to explain and describe information and ideas

#### Competency D: Use Digital Technology

- Task Group: Not applicable
- D.2: Perform well-defined, multi-step digital tasks

#### Embedded Skills for Success:

- Communication
- Digital
- Reading
- Writing

### Activity: Task 4– Write a letter to your Member of Provincial Parliament

Sometimes, you want to share concerns or how you feel about important issues with your provincial government. Housing for newcomers is a concern that you might want to ask about. You can find out your local Member of Parliament's contact information at [MPP contact information: constituency offices | Legislative Assembly of Ontario \(ola.org\)](http://mpp.contactinformation.constituencyoffices.legislativeassemblyofontario.org)

- Ask learners to review the resource and to think about a problem that newcomers have when looking for housing in Ontario.
- Ask learners to write a three-paragraph letter to their local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) describing their concern about housing for newcomers. The letter should
  - greet the MPP and introduce the learner
  - share the concern or problem identified by the learner
  - ask the MPP for a response about how this is being taken care of by the Government
- Ask learners to share their letter with their teacher or classmates.
- Learners could also send their letter to their MPP.

#### OALCF A1.2, B1.2, B2.2, and D.2:

Note to Practitioners: If learners wish to write a longer and more detailed letter to their MPP, this could be a B2.3 level task.

#### Competency A: Find and Use Information

- Task Group: Read Continuous Text (A1)
- A1.2: Read texts to locate and connect ideas and information

**Competency B: Communicate Ideas and Information**

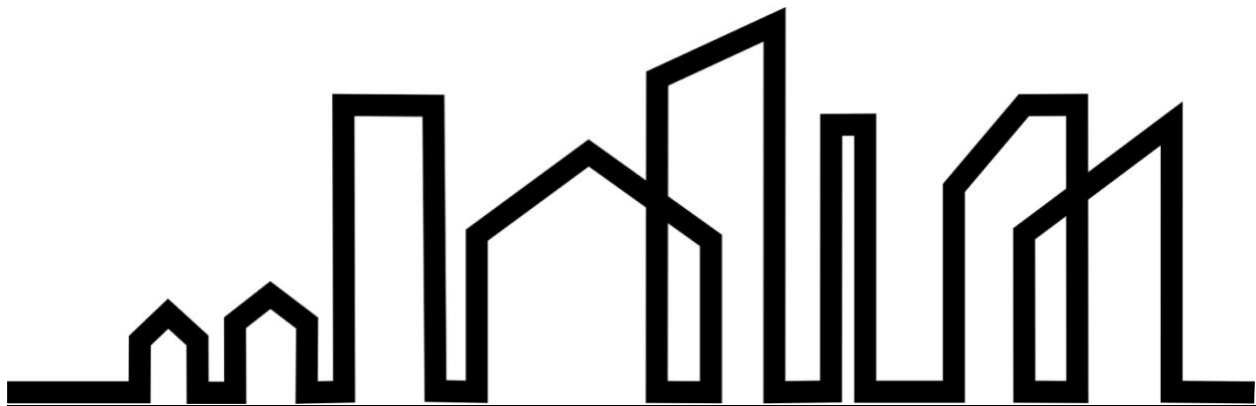
- Task Group: Interact with others (B1)
- B1.2: Initiate and maintain interactions with one or more persons to discuss, explain, or exchange information and opinions
  
- Task Group: Write continuous text (B2)
- B2.2: Write texts to explain and describe information and ideas

**Competency D: Use Digital Technology**

- Task Group: Not applicable
- D.2: Perform well-defined, multi-step digital tasks

**Embedded Skills for Success:**

- Communication
- Digital
- Reading
- Writing



## Section 4 – Answer Key

### Task – Page 7:

It can be hard to find information when English isn't your first language.

- List the steps that someone would take to get **housing** information in Ukrainian on Settlement.org

Answer:

- Go to the Settlement.org website <https://settlement.org/>
  - Click on Translated Information.
  - Click on Ukrainian.
  - Click on Housing.
- List three of the topics that are available in Ukrainian.

Answer:

- How much does it cost to rent an apartment in Ontario?
- How often can a landlord increase the rent?
- What are my rights as a tenant?
- What kinds of questions can a landlord ask?

### Task – Page 14:

Use the Settlement.org website to look at the rental rates in Barrie  
<https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/rent-a-home/basics/how-much-does-it-cost-to-rent-an-apartment-in-ontario/>

- How much is the average rate to rent a one-bedroom apartment in Barrie?

Answer: \$1,860

- How much is the average rate to rent a two-bedroom apartment in Barrie?

Answer: \$2,400

- How could a single person who earns less than the average rent costs in Barrie afford to live in Barrie? List two possible solutions and why they could work.

**Possible Answers (there could be more):**

- Try to earn extra money with a part-time job – more money
  - Find a roommate – shared costs
  - Try to find a smaller, less expensive apartment – they might not need as much space or extra things like a gym or pool
- 
- Share ideas and exchange opinions with your teacher and classmates. Work together to find more solutions.

**Activity: Task 1 – Page 29 (Think about things that affect housing decisions.)**

There are many things that need to be considered when someone is looking for housing. This resource explores some of these things via the Settlement.org website.

Ask learners to think about a family of two adults and two young children. This family has just arrived in Ontario from another country. One adult has good English-speaking skills, but no one else in the family speaks any English.

- Ask learners to use this resource and the Settlement.Org website at <https://settlement.org/> to make a list of three things that they think this family might need to think about and why as they look for housing.
- Ask learners to share their list with their teacher or classmates.
- Ask learners to talk about their list and to exchange ideas with their teacher or classmates.

**Possible answers – These are some possibilities. There could be many others:**

- Do they need job opportunities?
- How much money does the family have? What can they afford?
- Do they have family or friends in Ontario?
- Will they need a car?
- Is there public transportation close by?
- Are there conveniences within walking distance?
- How close are schools or daycare for the children?
- What other supports might the family need?

### Activity: Task 2 – Page 30 (Find information about different places to live in Ontario.)

It can be hard to decide where you should live in a new country. As mentioned on Page 10, the **Where Should I Live in Ontario** section of the Settlement.org website has good information to help people find out more about different locations in Ontario.

- Ask learners to visit the Where Should I Live in Ontario section of the Settlement.org website <https://settlement.org/ontario/housing/living-in-ontario/housing-basics/where-should-i-live-in-ontario/>
- Ask learners to list the four types of city/municipal governments' websites mentioned under the topic of Community Profiles.

#### Answers:

- Cities and Towns
  - Municipal Websites
  - Statistical Community Profiles
  - Services Near Me
- Ask learners to list five useful types of information that can be found on these websites.

#### Possible answers – These are only some of the possibilities.

- information about specific cities
  - services available
  - population size
  - the average number of people living in a home
  - languages spoken
  - geography by city or region
  - percentage of immigrants by city or region
- Encourage learners to further explore the website links that interest them.