




## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	June 12, 2024
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Air Conditioning Benefit Program Expansion
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Stuart Beumer Director, Ontario Works Healthy and Safe Communities Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to advise Council that applications for the temporary Expansion of Subsidy for Air-Conditioners to Low Income Households (BOH24010(a)) as approved by Council on Wednesday June 12, 2024 will be available to residents starting Thursday June 13, 2024 at 8:00am.

The temporary expansion of the current provincial Social Assistance program to eligible low income residents would require households to meet the Statistic Canada's Low Income Measure threshold (as outlined on the Special Supports page of the City website), and provide medical documentation of a severe medical condition where, without an air conditioner the symptoms of the medical condition are likely to deteriorate, increase, become episodic or cause hospitalization. The air conditioner benefit will be available from June 13<sup>th</sup> until September 30, 2024. There is limited additional funding allocated for this low-income expansion, and we will be administering the program on a first come, first served basis, to support up to 150 eligible households.

Eligible City of Hamilton applicants will receive a one-time, \$350.00 financial subsidy per household to purchase an energy efficient air conditioner to assist with cooling an area within their residence. They will also be required to provide proof of purchase within 30 days. A survey questionnaire will be sent to eligible residents in September 2024 as part of evaluating the expansion of the program.

More information about the benefit, eligibility and how to apply is available on the City's website at [Special Supports Program | City of Hamilton](#) and/or by calling the Special Supports Program at 905-546-2590.

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Should you require further information on the Air Conditioning Benefit Program Expansion, please reach out to the Erica Brimley, Manager – Human Services via email at [erica.brimley@hamilton.ca](mailto:erica.brimley@hamilton.ca) or cellular 905-973-0545