

# HOUSING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS



*We help community groups find the right house in which to provide their services.*

## What is Community Group Housing?

Community Group Housing is a Housing New Zealand Corporation service to help community groups find the right house in which to provide their services. Under Community Group Housing, we offer rental housing to government-funded groups or organisations that provide residential community services and who hold a current Government funded service delivery contract, and or have an approved accreditation to deliver a government funded service which may include the following:

- people with mental health issues
- people with intellectual or physical disabilities
- women seeking refuge
- youth at risk
- people needing emergency housing.

## How does it work?

Community groups apply for a house under the Community Group Housing service.

Once we have established a group is eligible for the programme, we start looking for a suitable property. We'll look at what housing we have as well as houses for sale. When we have some properties to consider, we invite the group to decide which house best meets their needs. Once a group chooses a property, we work with them to make it fit for their service.

If we can't help, we suggest alternative options.

## Can our group get Community Group Housing?

To be eligible for Community Group Housing, your group needs:

- a government contract for the service you're providing
- registration as an incorporated society or a charitable trust. Most of the groups on the Community Group Housing programme are funded by the Ministry of Health or Child, Youth and Family.

## How do we apply for Community Group Housing?

There is no application form for Community Group Housing. Instead, proposals that are supported by a government funded contract will be considered.

Your proposal should include:

- your organisation's purpose, goals and the activities you will undertake at the house
- confirmation of your funding such as your contract
- a financial budget showing your operating costs, including weekly rent
- a copy of your organisation's annual report, audited accounts and financial position
- a copy of your registration as an incorporated society or trust deed
- the names and contact details of your trust or committee members
- any letters of support you have from the community.

## Talk to us on 0800 801 601

If you would like more details about any information in this fact sheet, or have any queries about Housing New Zealand, please call our Customer Services Centre free, any time on **0800 801 601** or visit our website [www.hnzc.co.nz](http://www.hnzc.co.nz)

If you have a hearing impairment, you can contact us using the NZ Relay Service on [www.nzrelay.co.nz](http://www.nzrelay.co.nz), or you can fax 0800 201 202.

We also need information about the house you require, such as size, wheelchair access, bathroom facilities and preferred location. We're interested in things like the number of people and vehicles you expect to have at the house, and when you expect to have the service operating.

### How long does it take to get a Community Group Housing property?

If your proposal is accepted, the time to get a house depends on a number of factors including:

- housing needed
- location
- availability of a suitable house
- alterations required.

### Do we sign a tenancy agreement?

Yes. The final thing to do before moving in is to sign a tenancy agreement with us. The agreement will meet the requirements of either the Residential Tenancies Act or the Property Law Act, depending on the type of service your group offers.

We'll go through the agreement with you before you sign it. If you'd like external advice before signing the agreement, you can contact the Department of Building and Housing or a lawyer.

### How much will it cost our group?

You have to pay a market rent. The amount depends on the type of house, facilities and location

### How long can we stay in a Community Group house?

You can stay as long as you are using the property for the agreed purpose, and as long as you maintain a government funded service delivery contract and or accreditation.

### How do we find out more?

If your group is interested in renting a house from Housing New Zealand, or you have questions about Community Group Housing, call us free on 0800 801 601.



*Proposals for housing that are supported by a government contract will be considered.*