

Summary of Updates to the Bring It Home Rental Assistance Program Guide

Published: August 2026

This document outlines the updates to the Bring It Home Rental Assistance Program Guide that were adopted by the Minnesota Housing Board May 2026.

Background

The Bring It Home Rental Assistance Program (BIH) was authorized in the 2023 legislative session under Minnesota Statute 462A.2095. The program was created to provide rental assistance for low-income families across Minnesota. The program is funded through state appropriations and a portion of the new metropolitan area sales tax and provides both tenant-based and project-based rental assistance for cost-burdened households earning up to 50 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). Priority for rental assistance must be given to households with children 18 years of age and under and with annual incomes at or below 30 percent of AMI.

Since the Minnesota Housing Board approved the initial BIH Program Guide in December 2024, legislative changes enacted during the 2025 session, along with additional policy clarifications issued by Minnesota Housing, necessitated updates to the Guide.

The updates incorporate the revised statutory provisions, clarify grantee partnership expectations, incorporate previously issued guidance around Project Based Voucher requirements, and establish a process to address unserved areas.

Summary of Updates

The following information is a summary of the major updates to the Bring It Home Rental Assistance Program Guide:

Eligibility and Program Requirements (Chapter 2)

- Section 2.01: Clarified responsibilities of the Grantee in a partnership.
- Section 2.02: Added the provision that Program Administrators may establish additional priority populations based on local need, alongside the statutory priority (also added in Chapter 3).

- Section 2.03: Added guidance around utility allowances and utility reimbursements in.

Housing Assistance Payments/Rental Assistance Options (Chapter 3)

- Section 3.00: Modified language in the beginning of the Chapter to reflect that household income must be recertified annually for the purpose of adjusting rental assistance, not program eligibility.
- Section 3.04: Incorporated Project Based Voucher guidance that was previously issued to grantees. This includes bidding requirements for Project Based Voucher contracts.

Funding Information (Chapter 4)

- Section 4.01: Added that Minnesota Housing reserves the right to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to allocate funding at its discretion, since it is no longer required in the statute.
- Section 4.02: Retitled and more clearly outlined the process for addressing unserved areas where no entity applied or a Program Administrator no longer has the capacity to administer the program.

Funding Process, Review and Financial Criteria (Chapter 5)

- Section 5.00: Modified language to address how grants may be awarded after the initial two-year grant period.

Contracting, Payments and Budget Modifications (Chapter 6)

- Section 6.01: Incorporated two new Office of Grants Management Requirements in Section 6.01.