

When a household member receives third-party payments (like help with bills or medical care), it can count as income for your housing assistance. The housing office looks at these payments if they pay for regular household costs like food, utilities, or rent. ⓘ

How Third-Party Payments Affect Assistance

- **Regular Help Counts:** If someone pays your bills regularly, the housing office counts it as part of your total household income.
- **One-Time Help Does Not Count:** If a friend or group gives you a one-time gift or pays a one-time bill, it usually does not count.
- **Direct-to-Vendor Payments:** If money goes straight to your landlord or utility company for your regular expenses, it still counts as income.
- **Medical or School Help:** Money paid directly for medical care or student financial aid usually does not count against your housing help. ⓘ

What You Must Do

- **Report All Changes:** You must tell your housing case worker about any regular money or help your household gets.
- **Show Proof:** Bring letters, bank statements, or receipts that show who pays and how much they pay.
- **Avoid Penalties:** Not reporting regular help can lead to losing your housing assistance or paying back money. ⓘ