

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND HOUSING DIVISION

Divisional Goals

- To enhance the affordability and choice of adequate housing for Manitobans, particularly those of low to moderate incomes and those with special needs.
- To help Manitobans to regain their independence by supporting their transition from income assistance to employment.
- To ensure that no Manitoban lacks the goods and services essential to health and well-being, by providing income assistance to Manitobans in need.

Divisional Responsibilities

- Provides policy coordination, direction and support for the department's employment support, financial assistance and housing programs.
- Provides employability assessments, personal job planning, work incentives and other supports to assist Manitobans to enter or re-enter and remain in the labour market.
- Provides income assistance to persons in need, including municipal assistance.
- Provides essential drug, dental and optical services and support to Employment and Income Assistance participants and children in care.
- Provides financial supplements to low-income persons 55 years of age and over and to low-income families with children.
- Provides links to training and employment opportunities, child care services for active job searchers, job readiness assessments, and partnerships with agencies helping people on income assistance reduce dependence on government programs.
- Provides operational assistance to support not-for-profit housing and the delivery of housing grant and subsidy payments to low-income renters under shelter assistance programs.
- Provides coordination and support services to the Manitoba Housing Authority, the Affordable Housing Initiative, and the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative.

The division consists of the following major areas:

- Strategic Initiatives and Program Support
- Employment and Income Assistance Programs
- The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation
- Housing Programs
- Corporate Services
- The Manitoba Housing Authority

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

Objectives

- To provide executive direction, management, coordination and support for the programs and services delivered and administered under the Employment, Income and Housing Division.

Responsibilities

- Provides policy and program direction to develop, manage and deliver the Employment, Income and Housing programs and services.
- Provides program analysis and overpayment recovery for Employment, Income and Housing programs.

09-2A Strategic Initiatives and Program Support

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2003/04 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2003/04 \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Total Salaries and Employee Benefits	504.9	7.00	416.5	88.4	
Total Other Expenditures	72.3		74.0	(1.7)	

Activities/Highlights in 2003/04

- Ensured effective direction was provided to the division, the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and the Manitoba Housing Authority.
- Assisted in the ongoing development of services which are consistent with the policy and program objectives of the division and the department.
- Coordinated Integrated Service Delivery activities related to housing programs and services, and to the provision of information regarding housing-related programs through community access offices.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Objectives

- To provide effective leadership, direction, fiscal management and support to ensure the delivery of Income Assistance programs, Building Independence projects and Income Supplement programs in accordance with the relevant legislation and government policy.
- To develop and implement initiatives for Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) participants to assist Manitobans to regain their financial independence from income assistance by making the transition to work.

The branch consists of the following areas:

- Policy and Program Development – Responsible for the development and maintenance of legislation, policy and program development, new initiatives such as the restoration of the National Child Benefit Supplement, and public communications such as program brochures.
- Support Services and Employment Development – Responsible for quality assurance, program budgeting, information technology, training and employment initiatives under the Building Independence strategy, and support to municipalities in the delivery of Municipal Assistance.

Responsibilities

Employment and Income Assistance (EIA)

- The major objectives of the EIA program are:
 - to assist Manitobans in regaining their financial independence by helping them to make the transition from income assistance to work; and
 - to provide income assistance to Manitobans in need.
- Financial assistance is provided to persons in need who are eligible for assistance under *The Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Act*, including single parents, aged persons, persons requiring the protection of a crisis intervention facility, and children whose parents are unable to support them, as well as non-disabled single persons, childless couples and two-parent families. Eligibility may also be granted under special case consideration at the discretion of the Minister. In 2003/04, persons who did not qualify for EIA benefits could apply to their local municipality for assistance under the Municipal Assistance Program. *The EIA Act* also provides eligibility for assistance to persons with disabilities who are in need. Information on these participants is reported under the department's Services for Persons with Disabilities Division.
- Eligibility for assistance is also determined by a needs test, in which the amount of a household's financial resources is compared to the total costs of its basic necessities as defined in *The EIA Act* and Regulations. Certain items and income are not included in the calculation of financial resources.
- EIA provides employability assessments, personal job planning, work incentives and other supports to assist Manitobans in entering, re-entering or remaining in the labour force.
- EIA provided assistance to an average monthly caseload of 14,750 in 2003/04, a decrease of 2.2 per cent from the previous year.

- During 2003/04, 13.4 per cent of the income assistance caseload made use of the work incentive provisions of the program.

Employment and Income Assistance
Average Monthly Number of Cases and Participants by Category
 2001/02 to 2003/04

Category	2001/02		2002/03		2003/04	
	Cases	Participants	Cases	Participants	Cases	Participants
Children	87	116	80	104	74	99
Single Parents	9,314	27,468	9,195	27,341	9,246	27,699
Aged	195	259	160	218	140	193
Crisis Facility Cases	57	139	54	132	55	132
General Assistance	6,297	10,677	5,544	9,634	5,199	9,130
Special Cases	50	64	43	52	36	45
Total	16,000	38,723	15,076	37,481	14,750	37,298

Employment and Income Assistance
Expenditures by Category (\$000)
 2001/02 to 2003/04

Category	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Children	\$353.2	\$302.6	\$285.9
Single Parents	94,782.8	95,817.9	99,337.8
Aged	818.3	712.2	654.0
Crisis Facility Cases	587.0	363.0	498.9
General Assistance	39,513.0	34,801.5	33,617.6
Special Cases	1,296.6	1,439.0	1,463.2
Other	1,092.5	1,223.0	472.6
Total	\$138,443.4	\$134,659.2	\$136,330.0

Employment and Income Assistance
Employment Income
 2001/02 to 2003/04

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Average Monthly Number of Participants Reporting Employment Income			
Single Parents	1,476	1,413	1,342
General Assistance	676	632	591
Total	2,152	2,045	1,933

**Employment and Income Assistance
Percentage of Cases on Work Incentive Program
2001/02 to 2003/04**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Single Parents	15.8%	15.4%	14.0%
General Assistance	10.7%	11.4%	11.0%
Total Caseload	13.8%	13.9%	13.4%

Municipal Assistance

- The Municipal Assistance Program is administered by municipalities outside the City of Winnipeg, in accordance with *The EIA Act* and *The Municipal Act*. Municipal assistance is provided to persons who are not eligible for assistance from EIA, i.e., non-disabled single persons, childless couples and two-parent families. The EIA Programs Branch administers the cost-sharing of municipal assistance provided by municipalities, and provides interpretation and support to municipalities in their delivery of municipal assistance.
- Municipalities provided assistance to an average monthly caseload of 1,150 in 2003/04.

**Municipal Assistance
Cases and Provincial Share of Expenditures
2001/02 to 2003/04**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Average Monthly Number of Cases	1,053	1,140	1,150
Average Monthly Number of Participants	1,933	1,965	1,941
Provincial Share of Expenditures (\$000)			
Financial Assistance	\$4,096.8	\$4,401.5	\$4,621.2
Welfare Services	209.9	380.6	319.4
Total	\$4,306.7	\$4,782.1	\$4,940.6

Health Services

- The Health Services Program provides essential drug, dental and optical services and support to EIA participants and children in care.
- Supplies and services are generally provided in accordance with approved fee schedules negotiated with professional health organizations. These agreements specify the types of goods and services provided, eligibility criteria, level of payment and related billing procedures.
- Health Services provided benefits to an average monthly caseload of 17,062 in 2003/04. Of these cases, 5,376 (31.5 per cent) were children in care.

**Health Services
Caseload and Expenditures***
2001/02 to 2003/04

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Average Monthly Number of Cases	19,065	17,729	17,062
Average Monthly Number of Participants	38,725	36,120	34,906
Expenditures (\$000)			
Dental	\$2,199.4	\$2,282.1	\$2,361.3
Drugs	6,794.7	6,734.1	7,304.4
Optical	341.5	300.3	332.1
Total	\$9,335.6	\$9,316.5	\$9,997.8

* Includes children in care but excludes EIA participants with a disability. Information on Health Services provided to persons with disabilities is reported under the department's Services for Persons with Disabilities Division.

Income Supplement Programs

- The Employment and Income Assistance Branch administers two Income Supplement Programs for low-income Manitobans. 55 PLUS - A Manitoba Income Supplement provides quarterly supplements to low-income persons 55 years of age and over. The Child Related Income Support Program (CRISP) provides monthly supplements to low-income families with children.

55 PLUS – A Manitoba Income Supplement

The 55 PLUS program has two components. The Senior Component is for persons who are eligible to receive certain levels of benefits under the federal Old Age Security programs. The Junior Component is for low-income persons 55 years of age and over who are not eligible for federal Old Age Security benefits, and who are not in receipt of provincial or municipal assistance. Eligibility for the Senior Component is determined from a person's application for the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement. An annual application is necessary for the Junior Component.

During 2003/04, 55 PLUS benefits were provided to an average of 12,741 individuals per quarter. The majority (68.5 per cent) of these participants were single.

**55 PLUS – A Manitoba Income Supplement
Caseload and Expenditures
2001/02 to 2003/04**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Average Quarterly Number of Participants			
Senior Component			
Single*	7,603	7,197	7,368
Married**	3,021	2,861	2,852
Total	10,624	10,058	10,220
Junior Component			
Single*	1,585	1,449	1,354
Married**	1,489	1,265	1,167
Total	3,074	2,714	2,521
Program Total	13,698	12,772	12,741
Total Expenditures (\$000)			
Senior Component	\$3,822.6	\$3,621.1	\$3,681.2
Junior Component	1,425.8	1,247.5	1,151.7
Total	\$5,248.4	\$4,868.6	\$4,832.9

* *Single participants include those who have never been married, as well as those who are no longer married (i.e., widowed, divorced, or separated).*

** *For married participants, in some cases both members of a couple receive 55 PLUS and in other cases only one spouse is a participant.*

Child Related Income Support Program (CRISP)

CRISP provides benefits to low-income Manitoba families who are not in receipt of provincial or municipal assistance, whose total family income is within specified levels, and whose net family assets are \$200,000 or less. Benefits are determined by total family income from the previous tax year, although estimated income for the current tax year may be used when there has been a significant change in the applicant's situation. A new application is required for each benefit year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

During 2003/04, CRISP benefits were provided to an average of 1,153 families per month, representing 2,558 children. Of these families, 60 per cent were headed by single parents.

**Child Related Income Support Program (CRISP)
Caseload and Expenditures
2001/02 to 2003/04**

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Average Monthly Number of Cases			
Single-Parent Family	879	748	687
Two-Parent Family	584	483	466
Total	1,463	1,231	1,153
Average Monthly Number of Children			
	3,144	2,690	2,558
Total Expenditures (\$000)	\$1,076.9	\$938.0	\$919.8

Building Independence:

Building Independence develops and coordinates initiatives that help EIA and municipal assistance participants who are seeking work and want to participate meaningfully in the community. Support is also provided to projects that promote job opportunities and increase the job skills and employability of specific target groups.

Building Independence initiatives are designed to:

- reduce barriers to employment by providing tools, such as child care and voice mail services;
- provide better job readiness assessments;
- provide real links to training and employment; and
- support agencies to work in partnership with the EIA Program.

Building Independence
Number of Participants
2001/02 to 2003/04

Program	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Employment Partnerships			
Taking Charge!	1,042	- ¹	- ¹
Opportunities for Employment	245	275	315
School Crossing Guard	10	8	8
Wage Subsidy			
Education, Training and Youth	138 ²	126 ²	78 ²
Rural Jobs Project	18	12	13
Employment Enhancement			
Community Home Services Program	221	312	336
Manitoba Conservation Corps (positions)	4	2	0
Northern Affairs Project (positions)	9	7	6
Steps to Independence	670	173	325
Job Centre, EIA Intake (referrals)	2,937	4,066	4,726
Connect 2 Voice Mail	800 ³	973 ³	1,000 ³
Individual Development Accounts (IDA)	21	11	18
North End CRC – P.A.T.H. Centre	615	112	104
Family Day Care Provider Project	14	- ⁴	- ⁴

¹ This program is now funded through the Department of Advanced Education and Training.

² Information supplied by the Department of Advanced Education and Training.

³ Includes income assistance participants and low-income individuals.

⁴ Time limited project completed in April 2002.

09-2B Employment and Income Assistance Programs

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2003/04 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2003/04 \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,063.7	21.00	1,194.7	(131.0)	
Other Expenditures	1,801.2		1,862.6	(61.4)	
Employment and Income Assistance*	141,270.6		143,289.6	(2,019.0)	1
Health Services*	9,997.8		17,830.2	(7,832.4)	2
Income Supplements*	5,752.7		5,727.1	25.6	
Building Independence*	2,333.4		2,694.9	(361.5)	3

* Financial assistance expenditures. Employment and Income Assistance expenditures include the provincial share of Municipal Assistance expenditures.

1. The variance was primarily due to lower than expected caseload costs.
2. The variance was primarily due to a decrease in the volume and pricing in the Drug Program.
3. The variance was primarily due to project start up not proceeding and lower wage subsidy recoveries, partially offset by an increase in short-term skills training and job placements.

Activities/Highlights in 2003/04

- There were two increases to the income assistance rates in 2003/04:
 - In July 2003, there was a two per cent increase in the rates for board and room for income assistance participants requiring care and supervision, and for all five levels of residential care.
 - In January 2004 (for February 2004 benefits), there was an increase of \$20 per month per adult in the basic assistance rates for single adults and childless couples in the general assistance category, and for all adults in the disabilities and aged categories. This increase benefited 27,915 participants.
- Effective January 2004 (for February 2004 benefits), the National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) was restored for children twelve years and over in families receiving income assistance. This was the final step in the progressive restoration of the NCBS for all income assistance families. All federal increases to the NCBS have been passed on to these families since July 2000. The entire NCBS has been allowed to flow through for children six years and under since July 2001, and for children seven to eleven years of age since January 2003. The full restoration of the NCBS will cost \$13.7 million annually.
- In 2003/04, much of the branch's resources were devoted to the implementation of the Rural and Northern One-Tier initiative. This initiative was requested by the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), shortly after the Province assumed responsibility for the delivery of income assistance in the City of Winnipeg in April 1999. A single delivery system will eliminate duplication in administration, and allow income assistance benefits and training and employment supports to be delivered in a consistent, efficient and effective manner. Legislation was introduced in November 2003 to establish a one-tier system of income assistance outside of Winnipeg, to be implemented June 1, 2004. Plans for implementation were developed in consultation with the AMM.

- In 2003/04, the Building Independence Resource Directory (BIRD) became available on the Internet. BIRD assists income assistance participants in becoming independent of assistance by providing a listing of education and training opportunities that are available to participants. The information is available in both English and French.

THE MANITOBA HOUSING AND RENEWAL CORPORATION (MHRC)

Objectives

- To enhance the affordability of, and accessibility to, adequate housing for Manitobans, particularly those of low to moderate incomes or those with specialized needs.
- To maintain and improve the condition of existing housing stock.
- To stimulate and influence the activities of the housing market to the benefit of Manitobans as a whole.

Responsibilities

- As a crown corporation, operates pursuant to *The Housing and Renewal Corporation Act* (R.S.M. 1987 Chapter H160); governed by a board of directors under the provisions of the Act, with policy direction provided by government.
- Operates as the delivery arm for federal/provincial cost-shared social housing programs and other capital programming provided by the Province.
- As an approved lender under the federal *National Housing Act*, issues mortgages and loans and holds assets.
- Owns all assets but is financially dependent upon government, receiving an annual transfer payment basically equal to the difference between MHRC's revenues and its expenses less federal recoveries from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). As part of the government's annual Estimates process, these dollars are voted by the Legislature to the department which, in turn, "transfers" funds to the MHRC as required. (See Appendix for MHRC Financial Statements)
- Provides subsidies for approximately 36,000 housing units developed under various federal/provincial housing programs. Approximately 13,000 housing units are managed by the Manitoba Housing Authority (MHA), an agent of the MHRC. The remaining housing units are managed by sponsor and non-profit groups.
- Provides strategic planning and the development of new housing policy, programs, initiatives and corresponding legislation and regulations; program systems support and development; standards development and quality assurance; program analysis and evaluation; and issue management.
- Coordinates the MHRC's planning activities and provides ongoing housing program development and policy analysis related to program support.
- Examines new building technologies to assess their feasibility for Manitoba home construction.
- Monitors compliance with operating agreement provisions and promotes efficient management of projects in accordance with program objectives, and recommends changes to agreements to enhance operation of programs and projects.

- Performs operational audits of Non-Profit or Cooperative housing projects, including tenant selection, building maintenance, financial control, rent calculations, management control and board involvement.
- Conducts workshops and training sessions for Non-Profit and Cooperative housing projects.
- Delivers and administers the federal/provincial cost-shared Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) and the renovation and repair programs in Manitoba – Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), Emergency Repair Program (ERP), Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence (HASI) and Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP). Delivers the provincially funded Homeowner Emergency Loan Program (HELP).
- Provides financial assistance for benefits under the following shelter assistance programs:
 - Shelter Allowances For Elderly Renters (SAFER);
 - Shelter Allowances For Family Renters (SAFFR); and
 - School Tax Assistance for Tenants Aged 55 Plus (STAT 55+).
- Plans, organizes and evaluates corporate accounting and financial management activities including financial reporting, expenditure and revenue processing and appropriation control, federal/provincial cost-shared program reporting and claiming.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

Objectives

- To provide strategic planning and the development of new housing policies, programs and initiatives for the department.

Responsibilities

- Undertakes program analysis and evaluation, and recommends program and policy changes to better meet the objectives of the programs.
- Provides analysis, negotiation and coordination of interdepartmental and intergovernmental agreements and initiatives, as well as federal/provincial/territorial coordination and collaboration.
- Administers operating agreements with non-profit owned and/or managed housing projects.
- Oversees the development and delivery of the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI), both in Winnipeg (through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative) and through partnerships with municipalities and service organizations in rural communities.

The branch consists of the following areas:

- Housing Services – Provides program development, coordination, forecasting and statistical support services to the division, the MHRC and the MHA in support of strategic and operational decision-making.
- Portfolio Administration – Administers and monitors operating agreements with non-profit owned and/or managed housing projects. The area is also responsible for over 19,300 social housing units under non-profit, cooperative and urban native programs, and approximately 2,000 units developed under the Rural and Native Housing Program.

- Affordable Housing – Responsible for the delivery of the AHI, a five-year joint venture of the federal and provincial governments, developed to increase the supply of affordable housing rental units and new housing available in Manitoba. This will be achieved by supporting the development of new rental and homeowners units, offering repair/conversion options and providing homebuyer down payment assistance and rent supplements.

Activities/Highlights in 2003/04

Affordable Housing Initiative

On September 30, 2002, the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Agreement was executed by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Under this agreement, the governments of Canada and Manitoba will each contribute approximately \$25.4 million to a number of Affordable Housing Programs that will support new rental housing, homeownership opportunities, the rehabilitation of existing housing, and the conversion of non-residential buildings to provide housing. As a result, up to 2,500 affordable housing units will be created in Manitoba over five years.

During 2003/04, the Province continued to work with other levels of government to develop safe and affordable housing for families with low and moderate incomes.

In April 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. Through implementation of the MOU, the City of Winnipeg will provide support for affordable housing in Winnipeg over five years, thereby enhancing the delivery of the Affordable Housing Initiative in Winnipeg.

Under the Affordable Housing Initiative, the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation also issued an Expression of Interest to solicit New Rental Supply project proposals. In February 2004, the Community Economic Development Committee of Cabinet agreed that eight project proposals, totalling \$5.62 million in funding, be moved forward for approval.

Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI)

The Housing Programs Branch is an active partner in the tripartite Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI). The WHHI provides a one-stop approach for community organizations to access housing and/or homelessness programs provided by all three levels of government in the City of Winnipeg.

In 2003/04, the department continued to fund a range of programs delivered by the WHHI to address declining housing stock, homelessness and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. The WHHI delivers the provincial Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) Program in Winnipeg, which provides assistance of up to \$10,000 per unit to community-based organizations and individuals in support of locally planned and delivered initiatives for homeownership and renovation in targeted neighbourhoods. A total of \$8 million has been committed over four years for provincial housing programs, such as the NHA, delivered by the WHHI. This funding can be provided in conjunction with assistance received under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

In November 2003, Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg renewed the MOU to extend the WHHI for an additional five years. The renewal of the partnership will lead to more safe, affordable housing and programs and services to prevent or alleviate homelessness in Winnipeg.

**Summary of Neighbourhood Housing Assistance
Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson
March 31, 2004**

Neighbourhood/ Community	Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) ¹	Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) ²	Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI)	City / Municipal Funding	Human Resources Development Canada Funding	Total Funding	Total Number of Units	Total Number of Beds
WINNIPEG								
Lord Selkirk Park	\$ 79,400	\$ -	\$ 62,000	\$ 121,244	\$ 1,639,058	\$ 1,901,702	12	16
Spence	\$ 1,618,408	\$ 1,200,926	\$ 290,500	\$ 1,066,358	\$ 2,353,658	\$ 6,529,850	331	42
West Broadway	\$ 1,423,977	\$ 1,555,200	\$ 281,155	\$ 832,924	\$ 2,914,167	\$ 7,007,423	222	60
William Whyte	\$ 1,221,718	\$ 1,075,495	\$ 980,975	\$ 965,220	\$ 920,592	\$ 5,164,000	248	0
Point Douglas	\$ 553,334	\$ 216,577	\$ 646,193	\$ 410,665	\$ 5,787,900	\$ 7,614,669	221	0
Daniel McIntyre / St. Matthews	\$ 425,463	\$ 26,650	\$ 291,665	\$ 414,911	\$ -	\$ 1,158,689	162	0
Other Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 2,167,171	\$ 7,109,622	\$ 11,176,793	477	0
TOTAL WINNIPEG	\$ 5,322,300	\$ 4,074,848	\$ 4,452,488	\$ 5,978,493	\$ 20,724,997	\$ 40,553,126	1,673	118
BRANDON AND THOMPSON								
Neighbourhood/ Community	Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) ¹	Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) ²	Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI)	City / Municipal Funding	Human Resources Development Canada Funding	Total Funding	Total Number of Units	Total Number of Beds
Brandon	\$ 2,732,366	\$ 3,729,532	\$ 589,715	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 7,401,613	557	9
Thompson	\$ 496,760	\$ 1,295,324	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,792,084	136	0
TOTAL BRANDON AND THOMPSON	\$ 3,229,126	\$ 5,024,856	\$ 589,715	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 9,193,697	693	9
TOTAL								
	\$ 8,551,426	\$ 9,099,704	\$ 5,042,203	\$ 5,978,493	\$ 21,074,997	\$ 49,746,823	2,366	127

1 The program funding totals do not include program administration fees. The program administration fees for the NHA program are estimated to be \$283,100 at March 31, 2004.

2 This is total RRAP funding, which is cost shared 75% federal and 25% provincial.

Northern Housing Strategy

The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, in partnership with northern/Aboriginal organizations, is developing a strategic approach to address the needs associated with housing in the North. The strategy is comprehensive in scope and recognizes the relationship between housing, health, education and economic development, while emphasizing the need for a community driven approach. It is also intended to respond to common areas of need and priority in northern housing, and related partnership opportunities, as identified by northern communities and stakeholders at a Northern Housing Forum held in Thompson in May 2001. Leaders of the partner northern/Aboriginal organizations meet periodically with the Minister of Family Services and Housing to guide the development of the Northern Housing Strategy. In addition, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with representation from the organizations and the department, meets on an ongoing basis.

In response to Northern Housing Forum resolutions, and to recommendations by the Northern Housing Strategy partner organizations, a Northern Model House has been constructed in Thompson. The Northern Model House, developed in collaboration between northern communities, northern organizations, MHRC and Manitoba Hydro, is intended to demonstrate the viability of Panellized Housing as an innovative technology suitable to address northern housing challenges. During 2003/04, tours of the Model House were conducted and initial tests of the house took place. Manitoba Hydro operated a Northern Energy Information Centre in the Model House in the spring and summer of 2003.

Additional activities in 2003/04 included planning for more extensive tests of the Model House, for an initial build of panellized housing units in northern Manitoba communities, and for the development and delivery of homeowner/tenant capacity training for northern and remote communities.

Shelter Allowances For Elderly Renters (SAFER)

Funded by MHRC but delivered through Provincial Services, the Shelter Allowances For Elderly Renters program provides direct monthly cash assistance to persons aged 55 and over who rent their living accommodation in the private marketplace and whose rent exceeds 25 per cent of household income. The program subsidizes between 60 per cent and 90 per cent of the portion of the eligible rent that exceeds 25 per cent of the household income. As income increases and rent decreases in proportion to income, the assistance is reduced. The maximum benefit under the program is \$170 per month.

Applicants must re-apply for benefits on an annual basis and must meet eligibility criteria. The maximum eligible income for a single renter aged 55 or older is \$1,470 per month, and the maximum claimable rent on which benefits are based is \$405. The maximum eligible income for a renting couple in which one or both person(s) are aged 55 or older is \$1,650 per month, and the maximum claimable rent on which benefits are based is \$455.

Persons in receipt of Employment and Income Assistance are not eligible for benefits under this program. Persons residing in rent-g geared-to-income subsidized elderly persons' housing, rent supplement housing or personal care homes are not eligible for benefits under this program.

During the year ended March 31, 2004, 3,076 clients received benefits for total program expenditures of \$2,276,000. The following table provides program information for the past three years:

Fiscal Year	Average No. of Recipients Per Month	No. of Active Recipients at Year End	Total No. of Recipients	Average Monthly Benefit Paid	Expenditures Total \$000
				\$	
2001/02	2,908	2,779	3,283	82	2,849.8
2002/03	2,709	2,566	3,232	80	2,587.4
2003/04	2,563	2,361	3,076	74	2,276.0

Shelter Allowances For Family Renters (SAFFR)

Funded by MHRC but delivered through Provincial Services, the Shelter Allowances For Family Renters program provides direct monthly cash assistance to eligible families who rent their living accommodation in the private marketplace and whose rent exceeds 25 per cent of household income. The program subsidizes up to 90 per cent of the portion of the eligible rent that exceeds 25 per cent of the household income. As income increases and rent decreases in proportion to income, the assistance is reduced. The maximum benefit under the program is \$180 per month.

Applicants must re-apply for benefits on an annual basis and must meet eligibility criteria. To qualify for this program, there must be at least one child/dependant under 18 years of age living in the household.

For a two-person household (including one adult and one child/dependant), the maximum eligible income is \$19,380 per year (\$1,615 monthly) and the maximum claimable rent is \$445. For a three-person household (including at least one child/dependant), the maximum eligible income is \$20,940 per year (\$1,745 monthly) and the maximum claimable rent is \$480. For a four-person household (including at least one child/dependant), the maximum eligible income is \$21,780 per year (\$1,815 monthly) and the maximum claimable rent \$500.

Persons in receipt of Employment and Income Assistance are not eligible for benefits under this program. Persons residing in rent-geared-to-income government-subsidized housing or rent supplement housing are not eligible for benefits under this program.

During the year ended March 31, 2004, 991 clients received benefits and total program expenditures were \$894,000. The following table provides program information for the past three years:

Fiscal Year	Average No. of Recipients Per Month	No. of Active Recipients at Year End	Total No. of Recipients	Average Monthly Benefit Paid \$	Expenditures Total \$000
2001/02	533	537	1,018	126	807.7
2002/03	540	474	945	127	824.0
2003/04	577	572	991	129	894.0

School Tax Assistance for Tenants 55 Plus (STAT 55+)

The School Tax Assistance for Tenants 55 Plus Program provides an annual grant of up to \$175 to tenants aged 55 years or older, to offset the school tax portion of rental costs. The grant is payable once a year. Applications submitted during 2004 relate to rents paid during the 2003 calendar year. This program is funded by MHRC but delivered through Provincial Services on behalf of the Department of Finance. Program expenditures are recovered from the Department of Finance.

Applicants must meet eligibility criteria. Tenants aged 55 years or older whose net income is less than \$23,800 and who rented their principal residence in the private rental market during the previous calendar year are generally eligible. Pensioners who were eligible but did not receive their rebate during previous years, can apply for benefits retroactively for up to four years. Tenants living in non-profit housing for the elderly or in projects licensed under *The Elderly and Infirm Persons' Housing Act* do not qualify for benefits under this program because rents in these housing projects do not include school tax costs.

During the year ended March 31, 2004, 4,033 rebate cheques were issued (including retroactive/partial year cheques), representing an expenditure of \$497,000 for the fiscal year. The following table provides program information for the past three years:

Fiscal Year	Total Applications Received	Total No. of Recipients*	Average Annual Benefit Paid \$	Expenditures Total \$000
2001/02	5,301	4,797	125	599.8
2002/03	4,750	4,118	127	521.7
2003/04	4,503	4,033	124	497.0

* Includes multiple rebates for retroactive benefits, and applications received in previous fiscal year and paid in current fiscal year.

Complementary Assistance Program

Funded by MHRC but delivered through Provincial Services, the Complementary Assistance Program (CAP) provides grant assistance to housing co-operatives to lower housing charges for income-tested occupants. Applicants must meet income eligibility criteria. Co-ops submit monthly statements to claim assistance on behalf of eligible clients.

While the program is closed to new applications from co-ops, CAP assistance continues to be provided to co-ops under previous commitments.

During the year ended March 31, 2004, 72 households in 10 co-ops were subsidized through the CAP. A total of \$151.8 was expended during the fiscal year. The following table provides program information for the past three years:

Fiscal Year	No. of Co-ops at Year End	No. of Recipients at Year End	Expenditures Total \$000
2001/02	10	119	176.8
2002/03	10	78	190.4
2003/04	10	72	151.8

Rent Supplement Program

Funded by MHRC but delivered through Provincial Services, the Rent Supplement Program is designed to assist low- and moderate-income families and elderly households to obtain suitable housing in the private rental sector and in non-profit housing projects. The provincial government has entered into agreements with owners/operators of private rental stock whereby the province subsidizes the difference between the approved market rental rate charged by the landlord and the rent-geared-to-income rate paid by the qualifying tenant. Subsidy costs are shared by the federal and provincial governments on a 50 per cent federal/50 per cent provincial basis for units committed pre-1986 and on a 75 per cent federal/25 per cent provincial basis for units committed post-1985.

The following table provides program information for the past three years:

Fiscal Year	Units Subsidized as at March 31	Average Monthly Supplement Paid \$	Expenditures Total \$000
2001/02	1,947	210.03	4,942.6
2002/03	1,864	201.89	4,750.8
2003/04	1,870	236.73	4,667.5

CORPORATE SERVICES

Objectives

- To ensure the corporate comptrollership function is appropriately maintained to meet the needs of the division, the MHRC and the MHA for financial control, accountability, reporting and the safeguarding and protection of financial and physical assets.

- To provide comprehensive central support services to corporate operations and branches including direction and support in financial planning, financial evaluations and protection of corporate assets, reporting control policies, process and procedures.
- To provide direction and panning for subdivision development and marketing.

Responsibilities

- Plans, organizes and evaluates corporate accounting and financial management activities including financial reporting, expenditure and revenue processing and appropriation control, cost-shared reporting and claiming.
- Establishes and provides direction on corporate financial management policies, procedures and practices.
- Advises executive management regarding emerging financial and program management issues.
- Coordinates and supports the development of the corporate estimates in support of the division, the MHRC and the MHA.
- Coordinates, monitors and reports on the corporate entities which include the MHRC, the MHA and sponsor and private non-profit groups.
- Administers the loan and mortgage portfolio.
- Supports management through the provision of analytical, consultative and evaluative advice on new departmental and corporate programs, financial proposals and ongoing operations.

Activities/Highlights in 2003/04

Mobile Home Loan Guarantee Program

The Mobile Home Loan Guarantee Program guaranteed loans made by approved lenders for the purchase of mobile homes. These guarantees allowed the lender to provide the loan at a lower interest rate and for a longer term, resulting in lower monthly payments by the borrower. This program terminated March 31, 1997.

The following table provides program information for the past three years including outstanding guarantees as at March 31, 2004.

Outstanding Guarantees		
Fiscal Year	Total Units	Amount \$000
2001/02	66	1,531.5
2002/03	47	1,133.6
2003/04	38	878.0

09-2C Transfer Payments to MHRC

Expenditures by Sub-Appropriation	Actual 2003/04 \$000	FTE	Estimate 2003/04 \$000	Variance Over/(Under)	Expl. No.
Transfer Payments to MHRC	25,984.0		26,901.9	(917.9)	1
Valuation Allowance Adjustment	(529.5)		-	(529.5)	2
Net Transfer Payments to MHRC	25,454.5		26,901.9	(1,447.4)	
Grants and Subsidies	3,170.0		3,600.0	(430.0)	3
Total MHRC	28,624.5		30,501.9	(1,877.4)	

1. The variance is due to a reduction in the MHRC draw down required for 2003/04 operations. The actual results in support of these operations are found in The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation Statement of Operations on page 2 of the MHRC Financial Statements (see Appendix).
2. It is the Province of Manitoba's accounting policy to record the deficit/surplus of Crown organizations as an expenditure of the Province of Manitoba in the year in which they were incurred. The expenditure is recorded as a valuation allowance against advances owed to the province by the organization. The valuation allowance adjustment applied to MHRC Transfer Payments in 2003/04 is in the amount of (529.5).
3. The under expenditure in grants and subsidies is primarily due to a lower than projected recipient base under the Shelter Allowances For Elderly Renters (SAFER) program.

THE MANITOBA HOUSING AUTHORITY (MHA)

Objectives

- To provide quality affordable housing options to low-income seniors, single persons, families and persons with special housing needs, including crisis shelters for victims of family violence, who could not otherwise afford adequate housing in the private rental market for less than 30 per cent of their total household income.

Responsibilities

- As an agency of the MHRC, functions as the property management agency for approximately 13,000 units in the provincial public housing portfolio and ten crisis shelters for victims of domestic violence.
- Provides a safe and secure living environment for seniors, individuals and families at affordable rental rates geared to the income of the tenants.
- Fosters and supports tenants associations to enable tenants to be involved in assisting the housing authority to meet its goals in ensuring the success and sustainability of social housing programs.

Activities/Highlights in 2003/04

Following is a list of communities where Modernization and Improvement work was undertaken in 2003/04.

Modernization and Improvement

Community	Actual \$	Community	Actual \$	Community	Actual \$
Altona	9,180	Grandview	4,252	Roblin	53,112
Arborg	6,375	Gretna	1,388	Rorketon	4,162
Ashern	1,450	Hamiota	11,732	Sandy Lake	2,609
Balmoral	27,426	Hodgson	4,884	Selkirk	57,772
Binscarth	18,607	Inwood	11,274	Sifton	7,527
Birch River	10,716	Killarney	90,283	Snow Lake	7,243
Boissevain	2,407	Komarno	4,405	South Junction	7,320
Brandon	185,072	Lac du Bonnet	4,039	Sprague	2,350
Carberry	3,921	McCreary	13,292	St. Anne	4,751
Carman	311	Middlebro	1,950	St. Laurent	37,916
Cartwright	60,035	Miniota	9,807	St. Lazare	30,291
Churchill	964,523	Minnedosa	148,578	Stonewall	67,364
Clearwater	5,618	Moosehorn	50	Strathclair	1,500
Dauphin	199	Morden	11,831	Steinbach	2,993
Deloraine	27,281	Morris	27,851	Swan River	30,283
Douglas	8,692	Neepawa	47,824	Teulon	40,154
East Selkirk	3,092	Niverville	3,600	The Pas	503,971
Eddystone	30,856	Notre Dame	1,255	Thompson	80,472
Elphinstone	4,579	Oakburn	5,915	Treherne	8,125
Emerson	530	Oakville	4,800	Vassar	13,169
Erickson	13,851	Pilot Mound	22,238	Vista	9,441
Eriksdale	9,915	Pine River	7,350	Vita	7,842
Fannystelle	2,263	Plum Coulee	27,988	Winkler	24,142
Flin Flon	48,361	Plumas	18,448	Winnipeg	3,384,986
Gilbert Plains	15,841	Portage La Prairie	95,047	Winnipeg Beach	2,884
Gillam	47,265	Rapid City	8,781	Winnipegosis	18,346
Gimli	60,909	Rivers	3,925	Woodridge	15,227
Glenboro	22,317	Riverton	26,508	Sponsors	2,619,954
Total M & I					\$9,256,793