

Pensions Financial Hardship Unlocking Program Summary

Effective: September 1, 2014

Trouble opening fillable PDF forms?

Fillable forms do not open on some mobile devices and web browsers. If the form doesn't open or you see a "please wait" message, follow these steps to complete and save the fillable form which is available in this document:

1. *Right-click on the form link, or on the "Please wait" page, and select "Save Link As" or "Save As", and save the form to your computer.*
2. *Launch Adobe Reader.*
3. *Open the PDF from within Adobe Reader. You can now fill and save your form.*
4. *Print the form and submit it to your financial institution that holds your Locked-in Retirement Account (LIRA) or Life Income Fund (LIF).*

Table of Contents

- [Overview](#)
- [Process](#)
- [Reasons for Unlocking](#)
- [Contact Information](#)
- See related documents:
 - [General Program and Process FAQs](#)
 - [Reasons to Unlock FAQs](#)
 - Financial Hardship Unlocking Application Form: [fillable](#) and [non-fillable \(print\)](#) versions

Overview

On September 1, 2014, new pension legislation regarding the Financial Hardship Unlocking (FHU) program came into effect.

To improve service to Albertans and the timeliness of the response to applications, the Government of Alberta has changed the process and the reasons for applying to unlock your locked-in retirement account (LIRA) or life income fund (LIF) due to financial hardship.

Process

The [Application to Unlock Alberta Funds Due to Financial Hardship \(fillable version\)](#) or [non-fillable version](#) must be **submitted directly to the Financial Institution that holds your LIRA or LIF**. The Government of Alberta is no longer administering the program. This form is NOT sent to the Alberta Superintendent of Pensions.

You can apply to your Financial Institution **once for each reason per calendar year**.

Reasons for Unlocking

There are **5 reasons** that you can apply under to unlock money from your LIRA or LIF through the FHU program.

1. **Low Income**

Your LIRA or LIF may be unlocked based on your expected income over the next twelve months.

2. **Foreclosure**

To prevent foreclosure of your or your pension partner's main home, you may be eligible to unlock the amount of the mortgage arrears and associated legal fees.

3. **Eviction for Rent Arrears**

To avoid being evicted due to unpaid rent on your or your pension partner's main home you may be eligible to unlock the amount of the rent owing.

4. **First Month's Rent & Security Deposit**

Your LIRA or LIF may be unlocked to secure a new home for you or your pension partner in the amount of the first month's rent and security deposit.

5. **Medical Costs & Renovation**

The cost of medical expenses for you, your pension partner or dependants may be unlocked from your LIRA or LIF if not covered by a medical plan or any other source.

You may also be eligible to unlock funds to pay for renovations to a main home that are required for you, your pension partner or dependants due to illness or disability.

Contact Information

For any questions about the application process or the status of your application, please **contact the financial institution that holds your LIRA or LIF.**