

Participatory Budgeting (PB) re-design

Frequently asked questions

April 2024



Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) is re-designing the program formerly known as Participatory Budgeting (former PB), and we are asking for tenant feedback. A survey is online, and the deadline to provide input will be at the end of May. This resource includes more information about the new initiative.

Why is TCHC re-designing the program formerly known as Participatory Budgeting?

We heard from tenants the tenant funding programs can be complicated. We want to re-design the program to simplify the process for tenants to make sure all tenants can easily apply for funding.

What types of TCHC funding programs are available for tenants?

TCHC has two programs for tenants to access funding.

Tenant Action Funds (TAF) are resources available to tenants and tenant groups to fund projects and initiatives that respond to tenant-identified priorities. As part of the funding criteria, the event or activity (can be single or recurring) should meet one of the following objectives:

- connect tenants to services and opportunities;
- develop partnerships and networks to deliver local programs and services that will improve social conditions and promote safer communities; and/or
- increase tenant participation in activities that influence their quality of life.

Participatory Budgeting is a former program that encouraged tenants to make decisions about purchasing non-capital items (like furniture, gardening supplies, plants, exercise equipment, and more) for common area spaces in your buildings. **This program is currently on hold.**

Can I still apply for TAF during the former PB re-design?

Yes, Tenant Action Funds (TAF) are still ongoing. You can apply for funding for community programs through TAF. More information about TAF can be found at torontohousing.ca/TAF.

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When did TCHC last review these programs and what was the result?

From 2000 to 2016, TCHC designated funding each year for tenant-involved decision-making. Consultation sessions on the former PB process were held in Fall 2016. At those sessions tenants identified that capital projects were complex with technical details and components. As a result, TCHC introduced new processes: tenant engagement focused on the capital repair plan, and local tenant decision-making for purchasing non-capital items.

Why do we need tenant feedback about these programs?

Your feedback is crucial to shaping the future of the program formerly known as Participatory Budgeting (PB) and helping create a program that is meaningful, impactful, and reflective of the diverse voices in our communities.

Your responses will help us understand your:

- historical awareness of the program,
- thoughts on tenant funding priorities,
- the funding cycle, eligibility, allocation, and more.

When is the survey deadline?

The deadline to respond to the survey is 11: 59 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024.

How long is the survey?

The survey has 28 questions and should take you about 10 minutes to complete.

If I have more questions about the redesign or survey related to the program formerly known as Participatory Budgeting, who do I contact?

If you have questions, contact Christine Aina, Business Planner, at TenantEngagement@torontohousing.ca.