



Updated August 2015

Mortgage Relief

What is it?

The Mortgage Relief Fund is an ACT Government initiative, administered by the ACT Revenue Office. The fund aims to provide repayable interest free loans to mortgagors who are experiencing short term mortgage stress due to an unforeseen change in their circumstances. This change includes loss of employment, sudden illness or injury within the last 12 months.

A mortgage relief loan will only be considered and offered when you can demonstrate that you have attempted to access all reasonable avenues of help available to you. This includes discussion with your lender about hardship assistance.

The fund is not designed to assist mortgagors who have simply neglected to meet their payment obligations under a mortgage.

The maximum amount payable for an approved mortgage relief loan is \$10,000. The loan can only be used as payment towards arrears on the mortgage or a combination of arrears and future mortgage payments (arrears capped at \$5,000).

A mortgage relief loan, if approved:

- will be paid directly to the applicants' home loan account at the relevant lending institution;
- will be repayable over a 5 year period, with repayment of the loan to commence 6 months after the funds have been provided to the applicants' relevant lending institution;
- will be interest free; and
- will be secured by way of a caveat over the property for which the mortgage relief loan is sought.

Repayment of a mortgage relief loan is required in the event of the sale of the property, refinance or renegotiation of the mortgage on the property.

Who is eligible?

To be considered for a mortgage relief loan, you must:

- have experienced a recent and unforeseen change in circumstance which has led to short term mortgage stress;
- be an owner-occupier;

- not own any other interest in property anywhere, including those held under a trust;
- have a minimum of 10% equity in your home to provide security for any assistance given;
- be able to demonstrate that you have contributed some funding towards current mortgage repayments in the 6 months prior to an application; and
- have proof of current home insurance - Certificate of Current Insurance.

In addition to the above the total value of the property must not exceed the median house price corresponding to the [Home buyer concession eligibility](#) in the ACT applicable for the current period. This figure is based on the actual sales data from [ACT Planning and Land Authority](#) and is updated every 6 months to reflect the current housing market.

How do I apply?

To be considered for a mortgage relief loan, applicants must meet **all** eligibility criteria set out in the application form. It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure that all information is provided to the ACT Revenue Office, including documentation required from lending institutions.

Based on the information provided in a mortgage relief application, if there is no reasonable prospect of applicants sustaining home ownership or repaying the mortgage relief loan, the application will not be approved.

Applicants may require assistance in the preparation of a mortgage relief loan application from financial counsellors or other external service providers. Any costs associated in the preparation of a mortgage relief loan application will be borne by the applicant.

You must complete the application and forward it to the ACT Revenue Office for assessment. [Mortgage Relief Application](#)

Who runs it?

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Contact

ACT Revenue Office

Ph: (02) 6207 5943

Fax: (02) 6207 0108

Opening Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding ACT public holidays)

Web: [ACT Revenue Office Mortgage Relief](#)