

Please note:  
If your program is not checked, this Program Instruction is not applicable to your project(s)

- ✓ Public Housing
- ✓ Provincial Reform Housing Programs  
Municipal Non-Profit Housing Programs
- ✓ Federal Unilateral Housing Programs  
Rent Supplement - Commercial
- ✓ Rent Supplement - OCHAP & CSHP
- ✓ Rent Supplement Homelessness

**Subject** Local Standard re: Ontario Home Electricity Relief Program

**Authority** O. Regulation 298/01 S. 50 (6) Social Housing *Reform Act, 2000*

**Summary** Through the Ontario Home Electricity Relief Program low-income households, will receive a one-time payment of up to \$60.00 per individual or \$120.00 per family from the provincial government to help with the rising cost of electricity. Households began receiving the one-time rebate at the end of October, 2006.

**Background** In June, 2006 the Ontario government passed legislation that will provide \$100 million in assistance to low-income households across the province to help them with rising electricity costs.

The Ontario Home Electricity Relief Program will provide assistance to low-income individuals and families in the form of a one-time payment, which is based on family type and net income. Single people may receive up to \$60, and families may receive up to \$120.

The following chart shows the amount of the relief payment based on family type and net income:

INDIVIDUALS		FAMILIES	
Net Income	Proposed Relief	Family Net Income	Proposed Relief
Up to \$14,000	\$60	Up to \$23,000	\$120
\$15,000	\$50	\$25,000	\$100
\$16,000	\$40	\$27,000	\$80
\$17,000	\$30	\$29,000	\$60
\$18,000	\$20	\$31,000	\$40
\$19,000	\$10	\$33,000	\$20
\$20,000 and up	\$0	\$35,000 and up	\$0

Households that have filed their 2005 tax returns will automatically receive the rebate. For those households who have not yet filed the 2005 tax return they have until December 31, 2006 to file their return in order to be eligible for the rebate. If the household does not file the 2005 tax return by December 31, 2006 they will not receive the rebate.

The government began distributing the one-time rebate October 23, 2006. For the purposes of income declaration specific to rent-geared-to-income units, this one time rebate is considered to be excluded income as per Regulation 298/01 s. 50 (6).

**Action Required** Housing Providers are to exempt the Ontario Home Electricity Relief Program rebate when calculating rent-geared-to-income assistance.

Please contact your Program Co-ordinator if you have any questions.

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