

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

Age Requirements for Seniors' Housing

Authority

- s. 37 (9) (1) of Regulation 298/01
- s. 2.02 of the Service Agreement
- s. 3.3 of the Rent Supplement Agreement

Summary

Applicants are eligible for seniors' housing if at least one member of the household is 60 years old or older.

Applicants are eligible to be added to the waiting list of a seniors' building as long as at least one member of the household is 58 years old or older.

Background

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA) mandated some housing projects to house seniors only. Prior to the Social Housing Reform Act, a household was eligible for seniors' housing if at least one member was 60 or older. When the province transferred housing programs to municipalities, seniors' mandates were confirmed, but the definition of senior was not addressed.

The Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) permits preferential treatment on the basis of age for those 65 years of age and older. However, the OHRC also allows for special programs designed to assist disadvantaged groups. The Region has approved a special program to accommodate 60 to 64 year olds in seniors' housing.

Under the regulations of the *Social Housing Reform Act*, 2000, the Ministry also introduced a new rule requiring that applicants meet the eligibility criteria for seniors' housing before they are allowed to apply. Service managers have the authority to accept applications before the household meets the eligibility criteria if the household will meet the criteria in a given period of time.

In order to reflect the average waiting period for seniors' housing, the Region has adopted a policy allowing households to be added to the waiting list for seniors' housing as long as at least one member of the household is 58 or older.

A household that is housed in a seniors' mandate unit continues to be eligible for that unit if the household composition changes. For example, if a couple aged 62 and 54 are housed in a one-bedroom seniors' unit when the 62 year-old passes away, the remaining 54 year-old can stay in the unit.

Procedure

Provided that at least one member of the household is 58 or older, applicants under the age of 65 can now be added to the waiting list of any designated seniors' building. The Housing Access unit will update waiting lists accordingly.

Action Required

Housing providers operating designated seniors' housing communities continue to select applicants from the waiting list provided by the Housing Access Unit.

Housing providers are responsible to ensure that at least one member of the household is sixty or older before an offer of seniors' housing is made.

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

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