

Social Housing Notification

Policies & Procedures No. 19-02
March 28, 2019

Policies & Procedures No. 19-02 cancels and supersedes Policies & Procedures No. 15-02 dated June 10, 2015.

The Requirements, Recommendations and Guidelines in this communiqué are to be implemented by the housing providers administered under the legislated programs/Operating Agreement identified below:

- √ **Providers under *Housing Services Act, 2011***
- Providers under a Federal Operating Agreement
- √ **Requirement**
- Guidelines
- Information Only

Subject

Maximum Household Absence from Unit

Legislative Reference: O. Reg. 367/11, s. 37

Purpose/Overview

To establish a policy whereby a household will not be eligible to receive rent-geared-to-income assistance based on the length of time they may be absent from their unit.

Background

The *Housing Services Act, 2011* (HSA) gives Service Managers the flexibility to decide whether or not to establish a local eligibility rule setting a maximum absence period from the unit for continued eligibility for rent-geared-to-income assistance.

If a local rule is established, the HSA stipulates that the maximum number of consecutive days the household can be absent from the unit must be at least sixty (60) consecutive days or at least a maximum of ninety (90) days in a year.

The rule would not apply if the absence is for medical reasons.

As the Social Housing portfolio is experiencing more extended absences from households receiving RGI assistance, the Service Manager deemed it necessary to change the previous local rule where households are eligible to continue to receive RGI assistance regardless of the length of time they are absent from their unit.

Local Rule

In accordance with the minimum requirements of the HSA, a household receiving rent-geared-to-income assistance can be absent from the unit for a maximum of sixty (60) consecutive days or a maximum of ninety (90) days in a year.

Action Required

The policy in this notification is effective immediately.

Housing providers are required to:

1. Provide a copy of this Social Housing Notification to all members of the Board of Directors.
2. Ensure the housing provider's lease, by-laws, policies and procedures comply with the requirements of this Social Housing Notification.

For more information or should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Program Administrator.



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(disponible en français)