

Communiqué

Issue 2023-05

Date: May 26, 2023

The Requirements, Recommendations and Guidelines in this Communiqué are applicable to the social housing providers administered by the City of Hamilton.

✓	Providers Under <i>Housing Services Act, 2011</i>
	Providers Under a Federal Operating Agreement
✓	Requirement
✓	Guidelines
	For Information Purposes Only

SUBJECT: Updates to Policies

The purpose of this communicate is to provide an update required by amended regulations to the Housing Services Act (HSA). Effective July 1, 2023, the Province has amended O. Reg. 367/11 requiring Service Managers to set local income and asset limit rules to determine eligibility for RGI Assistance.

As a part of fulfilling this requirement, several local policies have been updated to align with the Income and Asset limits for RGI assistance, as approved by the Hamilton Emergency and Community Services Committee on February 16, 2023.

Below is a list of revised policies and a summary of the changes to each.

Policy	Section	Summary of Changes
Basic Eligibility Requirements for Rent-Geared-to-Income Pol...	Initial Eligibility for Placement on the Waiting List	Added household must not exceed Income and/or Asset limits
	Ongoing Eligibility	Added household must not exceed Income and/ or Asset limits
Document Standards Policy	Verification of Assets	Added direction not to review assets for those households in receipt of social assistance
Lease and Occupancy Agreements Policy	Terms and Conditions	Added RGI households to report any changes to asset holdings, e.g. windfalls, inheritances.

Policy	Section	Summary of Changes
<u>Calculation of Rent-Geared-to-Income Assistance Policy</u>	Overview	Added household to provide notice of significant change in assets, e.g. windfall, inheritance.
	RGI ineligibility	Income and/or assets in excess of local limit added as a reason for ineligibility
<u>Offers and Refusals Policy</u>	Housing Provider Refusals to Offer	Added direction if an applicant's assets exceeding the prescribed limit
<u>Income and Asset Limits Policy</u>	Terms and conditions	Updated to indicate that Income & Assets are a part of eligibility
	Determining Eligibility	Added direction that those in receipt of social assistance should not have their assets reviewed as a condition for eligibility.
	Income Limits	Added terms and conditions for income limits
	Asset Limits	Added terms and conditions for asset limits
	Excluded Assets	Added a list of exemptions/excluded assets
	Extension to divestment of assets	Added terms and conditions for extenuating circumstances, such as SPP and additional time for divestment of assets
<u>Divestment of Residential Property Policy</u>	Terms and Conditions	Added details regarding asset limits vis-à-vis a household member's interest in a property

The website landing page will be updated shortly to reflect the revised version of these policies.

Please contact your Housing Administration Officer if you have any questions.

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