Housing Division Notice

Date: March 25, 2003  HDN# 2003 - 50

This applicable legislation/policy is to be implemented by the housing provider(s) under the following programs:

Please note, if your program is **not checked**, this change is **not applicable** to your project.

✓ Federal Non-Profit Housing Program (with Rent Supplement)
✓ Private Non-Profit Housing Program
✓ Co-operative Non-Profit Housing Program
✓ Municipal Non-Profit Housing Program (Pre-1986)
✓ Local Housing Corporation

Subject: Basic Eligibility Requirements For Geared-To-Income Assistance – Rent Arrears

Background:

Section 7 of Ontario Regulation 298/01 outlines provincially set eligibility rules that all rent-geared-to-income households must meet.

A household is eligible for geared-to-income assistance if:

- No member of the household owes rental arrears to any housing project under any housing program including market and/or geared-to-income rent.
- If a member of the household does owe rent arrears, the service manager has the flexibility to not require payment; if satisfied that there are extenuating circumstances.
- There is a special provision for a special priority household to repay 50% of the arrears if the unit had a joint tenancy with the abuser.
Section 18 of Ontario Regulation 339/01 outlines the rules whereby a housing provider may refuse to offer a unit to a household.

- S.18 (1) (b) If the housing provider has reasonable grounds to believe, based on the household's rental history, that the household may fail to fulfill the obligation to pay rent for the unit in the amount and at the times it is due.

Section 20 of Ontario Regulation 339/01 outlines the procedures for the internal review [appeal] of a refusal to offer a unit to a household. (HDN #49)

Local Eligibility

A household owing rent arrears will not be eligible for geared-to-income assistance until the full amount (50% for special priority applicants) of the rent arrears is paid.

Those households on repayment agreements will not be housed until the full amount (50% for special priority applicants) of rent arrears is paid.

Once the rental arrears are paid in full, the chronological date of application will be the date the household first applied.

Louise Stevens
Director of Housing