



**Hastings County  
Housing Programs Branch  
Administrative Policies and Procedures**

<b>SUBJECT :</b> Urgent Housing Crisis Policy		
<b>APPROVED BY :</b> County Council March 30, 2006		
<b>POLICY #:</b> 11 - 06		
<b>ORIGINAL ISSUED</b>	<b>SUPERCEDES</b>	<b>CURRENT VERSION</b>
November 2001	November 2001	March 30, 2006

**PURPOSE**

To establish local priorities for households requesting rent geared-to-income housing.

**SCOPE**

This policy will apply to all housing providers who are required to fill vacancies from the Hastings County Social Housing Registry. This includes the former federal/provincial non-profit and cooperative housing and the Hastings Local Housing Corporation.

**REQUIREMENT**

The province has established a “special priority” category for people who are victims of domestic violence. Being categorized as a “special priority” allows the household to be placed at the top of the waiting list for the next available rent geared-to-income unit. Service Managers may establish additional local priority rules. However, the provincial priority rules prevail over local priority rules. Local priorities may be set for groups that are disadvantaged by chronological waiting lists.

**RESONSIBILITY**

In addition to the provincial “special priority” for victims of domestic violence, a local priority for those in an “Urgent Housing Crisis” has been established. Circumstances that may qualify a household for “Urgent Housing Crisis Status” are as follows:

- Acute, documented medical conditions which prevent a household from living in their current housing due to a serious health risk

- Homeless household where homeless is defined as not having anywhere to stay (living on the street or in a vehicle, for example), living in a shelter, or a situation where it is imminent that a household will become homeless or enter a shelter (the household has a Sheriff's order to vacate their current accommodation, for example)
- Loss of housing due to a fire or flood and there is no insurance or inadequate insurance in place
- Households where children have been removed from families solely due to their housing situation, or the removal of children for this purpose is imminent
- Market rent tenants currently residing with a social housing provider who have experienced a catastrophic life event that results in qualification for rent geared-to-income housing (death of a spouse which results in loss of income, for example)

Households requesting Urgent Housing Crisis Status may have to have their circumstances verified in writing by a third party. An acute medical condition is required to be verified by a medical doctor. Other circumstances resulting in an Urgent Housing Crisis may be verified by one of the following:

- A social worker
- A social service worker
- A shelter worker
- A law enforcement officer
- A fire prevention officer
- A doctor
- A lawyer
- A community health care worker
- A member of the clergy
- An individual in a managerial or administrative position with a housing provider

Households qualifying for Urgent Housing Crisis Status will be housed before households on the chronological waiting list but after households with "special priority" status.

Each case will be assessed on an individual basis by the Hastings County Social Housing Registry.

## **REFERENCES**

Ontario Regulation 298 – Section 24  
Social Housing Reform Act and Regulation Changes fall 2005