

DIRECTIVE

DATE: February 13, 2003

NUMBER: 2003-01

Approved by County Council on: January 28, 2003

The policies, procedures and County requirements in this Directive are to be implemented by housing providers that are funded under the following Programs, which are administered by the County:

Please note if your program is not checked, this Directive is not applicable to your project(s), and is for information purposes only

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Federal/Provincial Non-Profit Housing Program | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rent Supplement - Commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ontario Non-Profit Housing Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rent Supplement-Homelessness Initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Federal/Provincial & Ontario Co-operative Housing Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rent Supplement-OCHAP & CSHP |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Simcoe County Housing Corporation | | |

SUBJECT: CENTRALIZED WAITING LIST: PROTOCOL ON REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL PRIORITY STATUS AFTER SEPARATION

DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The County of Simcoe, as service manager, has delegated the tasks of receiving requests that a household should be included in the special priority household category on the centralized waiting list and making determinations concerning those requests to Simcoe County Housing Corporation (SCHC).

BACKGROUND

Under the Social Housing Reform Act 2000 (SHRA), if an abused household member and an abusing individual used to live together but no longer do, the request for special priority status must be submitted to the service manager within 3 months after they ceased to live together. However, the service manager may allow a request to be submitted later than this in certain circumstances.

PROTOCOL

The County **shall allow** a request for special priority status to be submitted more than three months after the abused household member and the abusing individual have ceased to live together **if satisfied that it is appropriate to do so after considering whether,**

- a) No member of the household knew that he or she could request to be included in the special priority category,
- b) No member of the household knew of the need to submit a request within the time limit,
- c) The abused member is at risk of further abuse from the abusing individual,
- d) The abused member is at risk of resuming living with the abusing individual due to financial hardship which could be alleviated by the provision of rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance,
- e) The abused member is in need of RGI assistance to alleviate financial hardship arising from legal proceedings in relation to the abuse, or
- f) The abused member is attempting to use the provision of RGI assistance as part of an overall program of recovery and re-establishment of a safe and normal life.

VERIFICATION

SCHC shall accept written self declarations of factors a), b), c), d), and f) above. If SCHC is considering factor e) above it may accept a written self-declaration, or it may require written verification from a solicitor, court official, or employee of a community legal clinic (or a similar widely recognized public service agency) that the abused household member is involved in legal proceedings in relation to the abuse and that the abused household member is experiencing financial hardship due to those proceedings.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

SHRA, s. 68, Ontario Regulation 298/01, s. 24 (13) - (14).