

DIRECTIVE

DATE: February 13, 2003

NUMBER: 2003-07

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.

✓	Federal/Provincial Non-Profit Housing Program		Rent Supplement - Commercial
✓	Ontario Non-Profit Housing Programs		Rent Supplement-Homelessness Initiative
✓	Federal/Provincial & Ontario Co-operative Housing Programs		Rent Supplement-OCHAP & CSHP
✓	Simcoe County Housing Corporation		

SUBJECT: POLICY ON HOUSING FOR SENIORS

1) SENIORS MANDATES

BACKGROUND

Before the devolution of social housing administration to service managers, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) allowed people over the age of 60 to be housed in projects with seniors mandates. Such a practice was open to a challenge under the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) for discrimination on the basis of age. However, the OHRC allows for special programs designed ‘to relieve hardship or economic disadvantage or to assist disadvantaged groups to achieve or attempt to achieve equal opportunity.’¹

¹ Ontario Human Rights Code, s. 14 (1)

POLICY

The County of Simcoe will allow housing providers with seniors mandates to continue to accommodate people from the age of 60. This action is taken on the basis of declaring the provision of social housing to seniors between the ages of 60 and 64 to be a special program, under section 14 of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

2) WAITING LISTS FOR SENIORS PROJECTS

A household may indicate a preference for a housing project in respect of which the housing provider has a seniors mandate and the preference shall be indicated on the centralized waiting list (CWL) if Simcoe County Housing Corporation (SCHC), to whom administration of the CWL has been delegated, determines that at least one member of the household will reach his/her 60th birthday within 3 years of indicating the preference. Nevertheless, the household may not move into a seniors building until at least one member of the household reaches his/her 60th birthday.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

Ontario Human Rights Code, ss. 2, 14, 15. Social Housing Reform Act 2000, s.99.
Ontario Regulation 298/01, s. 37, paragraphs 9 & 9.1, s. 41 (2).