



## Housing Services Notice

**Date: July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**HSN#: 2017- 05**

This applicable legislation/policy is to be implemented effective this date 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
  - Federal Section 26/27 Housing Program
  - Federal Urban Native Non-Profit Housing Program
  - Private Non-Profit Housing Program
  - Municipal Non-Profit Housing Program (Pre-1986)
  - Local Housing Corporation
  - Local Housing Corporation—Rent Supplement Programs
  - Nipissing District Housing Registry
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**Subject: Rent-Geared to Income Assistance and the Ontario Basic Income Pilot**

**Reference:**

*Ministry of Housing Social Housing Notification 17-02: Rent-Geared to Income Assistance and the Ontario Basic Income Pilot*

*Housing Services Act, 2011*

**Background:**

In April, the Government of Ontario announced details of the Ontario Basic Income Pilot (OBIP), a three-year study to test how a basic income might improve the health, education, housing and job prospects of those living on low incomes. The communities selected to take part in the OBIP are as follows:

- Hamilton, Brantford and Brant County
- Thunder Bay and the surrounding area
- Lindsay (beginning in fall 2017)

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) will randomly select eligible individuals to participate in the OBIP in these locations. Household receiving a Basic Income may relocate to other Service Manager areas. MCSS anticipates that payments to participants will begin by July 25, 2017.

Social assistance recipients selected to receive a Basic Income are required to withdraw from Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program. If these recipients are receiving RGI assistance, they would no longer pay rent in accordance to prescribed rent scales. Basic Income payments are not made under the authority of the Ministry of Community and Social Services Act. As such, the income exemption provided under Paragraph 5 of Section 50 (3) under Ontario Regulation 298/01 should not be applied to OBIP payments.

Persons and households deciding to participate in the OBIP, and currently residing in social housing and receiving RGI assistance, will be instructed to contact their local housing administrator to report their enrollment in the OBIP in order to allow the necessary adjustments to be made to their rent calculation.

**Action:            Payments received through the OBIP should be considered income for the purpose of rent-geared-to-income (RGI) calculations under the Housing Services Act, 2011.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other Housing Services Notice, please contact the Housing Services Administrator assigned to your portfolio:

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