



Hastings County
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**Hastings County Community and Human Services
Hastings Local Housing Corporation
Administrative Policies and Procedures**

SUBJECT: Local Priority Policy (formerly Urgent Housing Crisis Policy)		
APPROVED BY: Hastings County Council		
POLICY #: HP / HLHC 15		
ORIGINAL ISSUED	SUPERCEDES	CURRENT VERSION
November 2001	May 2022	September 2023

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to *Housing Services Act, 2011*, Part VII Prescribed Housing Programs and the Hastings Local Housing Corporation.

REQUIREMENT

The province has established a Special Priority category for people who are victims of domestic violence and/or human trafficking. 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.

RESPONSIBILITY

In addition to the provincial Special Priority for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, a local priority has been established. Households on Hastings County By-Name List (BNL), through the Coordinated Access System, may qualify for Local Priority status.

PROCEDURE

To promote fair and equitable access to housing opportunities, one of every ten (1:10) vacancies will be offered to applicants who meet the BNL priority category once Special Priority applicants have been exhausted. A household on the Special Priority category has priority over all other categories on the Centralized Waitlist. Households within the Special Priority category will be selected in chronological order based on the original date the household requested to be included in the Special Priority category.

Households qualifying under the BNL priority will receive only one offer of the first available suitable unit in the location requested and deemed eligible for. If the offer is turned down, local priority status will be removed, and the application will be cancelled.

All Centralized Waitlist applicants without a priority category will be selected in chronological order based on their original application date.

By-Name List

An applicant may qualify for BNL prioritization if the applicant has consented to being part of Hastings County's BNL through the Coordinated Access System. Hastings County Community Response Team manages the local BNL.

Households requesting inclusion under the Local Priority Policy must have BNL status verified by the Community Response Team.

Local priority will only be granted if it is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Service Manager, that the household has appropriate case management supports in place through a local Coordinated Access Housing Support Service.

REFERENCES

Housing Services Act, 2011
Ontario Regulation 367/11 s. 46, 47, 52