



# RGI ELIGIBILITY RULES

St. Thomas and Elgin County  
June 2012



## **Eligibility criteria for rent-geared-to-income assistance**

An applicant is eligible for rent-geared-to-income assistance if the following requirements are met:

### **Age requirement:**

1. At least one member of the household must be over the age of 16

### **Requirement to be able to live independently:**

2. At least one member of the household must be able to live independently, with or without support services. An individual is able to live independently if he or she can carry out the normal essential activities of day-to-day living, either on his or her own or with the aid of support services that the individual demonstrates will be provided when required.

### **Citizenship requirements:**

3. Each member of the household must be one of the following:
  - (i) A Canadian citizen
  - (ii) A permanent resident under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)* or has made application for permanent residency status
  - (iii) A refugee under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)* or has made a claim for refugee protection.

A household is ineligible for rent-geared-to-income assistance if a removal order has become enforceable under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)* against any member of the household.

### **Requirement to pay arrears:**

4. There must be no amounts owing by a member of the household, with respect to a previous tenancy in any housing project under any transferred housing program, for any of the following:
  - (i) Arrears of rent
  - (ii) Geared-to-income assistance received to which the household was not entitled, either because the amount of the geared-to-income rent was less than what the household was entitled to, or because the household was not entitled to rent-geared-to-income assistance
  - (iii) Damages caused by a current member of the household

This section does not apply if:

- (a) the Service Manager is satisfied that there are extenuating circumstances, or
- (b) a member of the household has entered into an agreement, or made reasonable efforts to enter into an agreement, with the person to whom the arrears or amount is owed for the payment of the arrears or amount, and the Service Manager is satisfied that the member is making or intends to make all reasonable efforts to repay the arrears or amount.



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The arrears or amount owed by a member of the household is deemed to be one-half of the actual arrears or amount owed if:

- (a) A request has been made for the household to be included in the Special Priority household category and the request would be or has been granted, and
- (b) The arrears or amount is owed with respect to a unit of which the member and the abusing individual were joint tenants.

### **Requirement re: convictions:**

5. A household is ineligible for rent-geared-to-income assistance if a member of the household has been convicted of:
  - (a) an offence under Section 55 of the *Housing Services Act 2010* or section 85 of the *Social Housing Reform Act 2000* related to the receipt of rent-geared-to-income assistance for which the household is not eligible, or to have knowingly aided or abetted a member of a household to obtain or receive rent-geared-to-income assistance for which the household is not eligible, or
  - (b) A crime under the *Criminal Code (Canada)* in relation to the receipt of rent-geared-to-income assistance.

The household shall be deemed ineligible for rent-geared-to-income assistance only if the conviction occurred less than two years before the determination of ineligibility.

### **Requirement re: divestment of residential property**

6. Each member of the household who has a legal or beneficial interest in a freehold or leasehold estate in a residential property located in or outside of Ontario that is suitable for year-round occupancy must divest himself or herself of his or her interest in the property and provide written verification of the divestment to the Service Manager
  - (a) within 180 days after the first day of the month for which the household begins to receive rent-geared-to-income assistance, or
  - (b) within 180 days after the first day of the month in which the member acquires the interest in the property, if the member acquires the interest in the property after the household begins to receive rent-geared-to-income assistance.

The Service Manager may extend the time for the divestment and verification of the divestment for such period of time as the Service Manager consider appropriate, if the Service Manager is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If the household was included in the Special Priority category at the time the household began to receive rent-geared-to-income assistance and the interest in the property is held jointly by a member of the household and the abusing individual, and if the member notifies the Service Manager that he or she believes that the divestment of the taking of steps to effect the divestment would place the member or any other member of the household at risk of abuse from the abusing individual, the Service Manager shall extend the time for the divestment and verification of the divestment for such period of time as the Service Manager considers appropriate.