



Niagara Regional Housing

Notice

No: 13-01

APPLICABLE TO:

DATE: January 8, 2013

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipal & Private Non Profit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Co-operative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Non Profit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCHAP/CSHP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rent Supplement

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information

SUBJECT: Amendment to O. Reg. 298/01 – Section 50(3) Excluded Income

BACKGROUND

The 2012 Ontario Budget included major changes to the way homelessness prevention programs are funded and how much funding is provided. The Province terminated the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) effective January 1, 2013. CSUMB was a benefit provided under the Ontario Works program available to social assistance recipients (Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program) to provide financial help for costs such as rent deposits, rent arrears and moving costs.

About one-half of the provincial funding previously spent by the Province on CSUMB was transferred to a new Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI). CHPI is administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and in Niagara Region, is delivered by the Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities Division of the Community Services Department.

Across the province, regions and cities can make different decisions on how they use the CHPI funding. Some are using the funds to provide direct benefits to households similar to CSUMB, some are using it to fund community based services, and some are doing both.

In Niagara Region, Council has approved a one-year Housing Stability Plan using CHPI and Regional funding to assist residents affected by the Ontario government’s decision to terminate CSUMB. The attached Appendix A provides an overview of the Plan.

Because Niagara Region’s Housing Stability Plan is not a program under Ontario Works and will provide direct financial benefits to some households, the Province passed a regulation to ensure such financial benefits would not be counted as income.

REPORT

The purpose of this notification is to advise Housing Providers that an amendment to section 50(3) of O.Reg. 298/01 under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* has been approved.

This amendment requires that payments received under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) are to be excluded from income for the purpose of geared-to-income rent calculations.

Effective Date: January 1, 2013

Housing Provider's Role

Housing Providers are to exclude all payments received under CHPI in the calculation of households' geared-to-income rent.

Service Manager's Role

NRH will review compliance with this Notice during operational reviews.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact your Housing Administrator at (905) 682-9201.

Lora Beckwith, General Manager

Attachment:

Appendix "A" – Niagara Region Housing Stability Plan