

Housing Choice Rent Supplement Program Outline

<p>Program Summary</p> <p>Council has committed \$200,000 in funding for rent supplements, designed to increase affordability for low-income tenants.</p> <p>Rent supplements would be delivered by the Housing Resource Centre and the Social Services Division, with payments made to landlords.</p> <p>Two program streams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing Choice Rent Supplement for low-income households (5 years) 2. Housing Choice for Youth for young people transitioning from the Youth Emergency Shelter (YES) (First Pilot Project - 3 years) 	
<p>1. Housing Choice Rent Supplement</p>	
<p>Delivered by</p>	<p>Housing Resource Centre</p>
<p>Participation in the Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Resource Centre - Execution of legal agreement required • Landlord - Execution of rent supplement agreement required • Tenant - Must apply through Housing Resource Centre
<p>Eligibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship in Canada • 18 years of age or older, live independently with or without support services • Meets occupancy standards • At or below the Low Income Cut Off (LICO) + 15% • Households receiving Rent Geared-to-Income (RGI) assistance or assistance from other rent supplement programs are NOT eligible
<p>Supplement Amount</p>	<p>Supplement amount – generally \$250 flat rate, but more or less if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rent is higher than Average Market Rent (AMR), will only be supplemented up to AMR; b) Impact of supplement on OW/ODSP, will reduce level of payment so that shelter allowance is not affected c) If less than \$250 is needed to bring the cost of rent down to 30% of monthly income, the lower amount will be supplemented, i.e. if 30% of monthly income is \$600 and the cost of rent is \$750 the supplement would be \$150. d) Exceptions will be considered under these circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) If tenant requires an accessible unit, and ii) Other, at the discretion of the City. <p>Flexibility to assist with last month’s rent at the Housing Resource Centre’s discretion.</p>

Reporting	<p>Housing Resource Centre will be required to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Housing Retention performance measure, as required by Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) • Financial statements of program and administration cost spending • Client numbers • Number of clients referred from social service agencies • Attrition levels • Reasons for attrition • Number of clients receiving OW and ODSP • Client income levels at intake • Levels of support required – actual, average, maximum
2. Housing Choice for Youth Pilot Project (Youth Emergency Shelter – Abbott House)	
Delivered by	Social Services Division
Participation in the Program	<p>6-7 units will be allocated to youth identified by YES for rent supplement at Abbott House - second stage housing for young people transitioning out of the YES shelter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlord - Execution of rent supplement agreement required • Tenant - Will be selected by YES, in consultation with Social Services
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determined by YES • Participants must agree to engage in YES programming as a condition of receiving the supplement • YES participants at Abbott House have three- and six-month probationary periods to ensure progress is being made toward individual plans.
Supplement Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplement amount – \$225 flat rate, or the difference between rent charged and Average Market Rent for a comparable unit • Level of payment will be adjusted so as not to reduce OW/ODSP shelter allowance
Reporting	<p>Social Services Division will report :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Housing Retention performance measure, as required by CHPI • Financial statements of program and administration cost spending • Client numbers • Attrition levels • Reasons for attrition • Number of clients receiving OW and ODSP • Client income levels at intake • Levels of support required – actual, average, maximum • Tenant outcomes – e.g. move to independent living