

# SH *notification*

social housing

**Subject: Amendments to Ontario Regulation 367/11 under the Housing Services Act, 2011 to enact new access system requirements**

Legislation/Regulation

Operational

**Release 22-01**

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The purpose of this notification is to provide an overview of amendments to Ontario Regulation 367/11 under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* (HSA) related to new access system requirements.

## **New Access System Requirement**

The province is proclaiming legislative changes to section 10.2 of the HSA, in force on January 1, 2023. This section amends the HSA to require a Service Manager to have an access system for providing assistance related to housing in its service area.

The assistance includes rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance, any form of assistance described in regulation, and any specified program approved by the Minister.

Ontario Regulation 367/11 will be amended to outline that the access system will include any form of financial housing assistance that is:

- Provided in respect of households (targeted towards households) and that either reduces the rent that a household must otherwise pay, or is to assist the household in paying rent, and
- Funded or administered, or both, by the Service Manager.

***What are examples of forms of assistance?***

The amended regulation includes assistance targeted to specific households either provided to landlords to reduce rent or directly to households to assist them in paying rent, including RGI assistance, rent supplements, portable housing benefits, housing allowances, flat rate benefits, and short-term/emergency financial assistance.

The assistance to be included is assistance that is funded and administered by the Service Manager, funded by another level of government and administered by Service Managers, or funded by the Service Manager and administered by another entity.

Service Managers are not required to, but may also include other forms of assistance in their access systems, such as affordable housing.

The amended regulation will require that the following information be made publicly available through the access system:

- The forms of assistance available under the access system (e.g., RGI assistance, portable housing benefits),
- A description of how to apply for the forms of assistance that can be accessed by the public (e.g., fill out RGI assistance application, apply directly with Indigenous housing providers), and
- Eligibility rules, and a description of how households are prioritized and selected for each form of assistance administered by the Service Manager.

When households are offered a form of assistance in the access system that is administered by the Service Manager, the household must be notified, in writing, of:

- The initial amount of the assistance, and a description of the method used to calculate the assistance, or if the assistance is provided in the form of reduced rent (e.g., RGI assistance), a description of the method used to calculate the rent,
- A description of the criteria for assessing continued eligibility for the assistance, and
- Any effect that receiving this assistance will have on basic financial assistance that a member of the household is receiving under Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

***How are the rules different for assistance that is funded, but not administered by Service Managers?***

For assistance that Service Managers fund but do not administer (e.g., funding provided to preserve RGI assistance for Urban Native Housing Units), the Service Manager would only be required to make information publicly available to households about:

- The forms of assistance available and
- A description of how to apply for the forms of assistance that can be accessed by the public.

## **When do the changes take effect?**

The amendments to Ontario Regulation 367/11 related to requirements for the Service Manager's access system will come into effect on January 1, 2023.

## **Further Information**

The amended regulation is available through the following link:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r22242>

Should you have any questions, please contact Neshalia Mohindra, Manager, Community Housing Renewal Unit. Neshalia can be reached by e-mail at [Neshalia.Mohindra@ontario.ca](mailto:Neshalia.Mohindra@ontario.ca).

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