

November 17, 2022

Leon McCurdy
Dispossessed Disabled Artists Demanding Housing (DDADH)
Re: Response Letter - Priority Access to Housing for People with Disabilities

Dear Leon McCurdy,

Thank you for your response letter regarding priority access to housing opportunities for people with disabilities. We are pleased about your interest in providing input to the Accessible Housing Working Group. As the Accessible Housing Working Group continues to expand their mandate to include other accessible housing-related matters, the City will be consulting and continuing to work with the advisory group to inform program and policy changes to the City's housing programs. As requested, the information below will provide you with an update to the local priority rules for Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) housing and priority access to the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB).

Within the City's Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) housing portfolio, approximately 26% of RGI households in Toronto Community Housing (TCH) are in receipt of ODSP and between 17-22% of applicants housed annually from the Centralized Waitlist for RGI housing are in receipt of ODSP. The City is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are provided housing access and it is expected that these rates will increase with the development of new supportive housing projects that are currently in progress, through the City's [HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan](#).

On July 19, 2022, City Council approved new local priority rules for RGI housing. Information regarding the new local priority rules can be found [here](#). To ensure that RGI housing is allocated to those most in need, the City has implemented monitoring and data processes to collect race-based data and equity data to analyze households applying and housed in RGI units. The City is committed to monitoring, reviewing and amending the priorities using the data collected and will be relying on feedback from advisory groups such as, the Accessible Housing Working Group to inform future RGI priority changes.

The City works with referring community partners to provide the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) to eligible applicants. COHB is currently being offered to individuals who are experiencing chronic homelessness in the shelter system, in which these individuals are often in receipt of ODSP. As a result, there are currently no changes to the priority groups for the COHB program at this time. To support Trevor Manson, please contact Yolisa de Jager at Yolisa.deJager@toronto.ca who can work with Trevor to fully understand the specific modification requests in relation to their RGI application and their current housing condition.

Sincerely,



Doug Rollins
Director, Housing Stability Services
Housing Secretariat