

1. Authority

1.1 This Policy is issued under the authority of Yukon Housing Corporation's (YHC's) Vice-President of Operations, pursuant to the Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Program approved by YHC's Board of Directors on October 27, 2021.

1.2 *Housing Corporation Act*, RSY 2002, c. 114:

4 (2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1), the corporation may undertake, carry to completion, or assist in the provision, development, maintenance, and management of housing

- a) generally;
- b) for families and individuals;
- c) for employees of the public service;
- d) for students;
- e) for senior citizens;
- f) for families and individuals receiving social allowances or social assistance.

2. Application

2.1 This Policy applies to YHC housing units rented under the Community Housing framework under the Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Program.

2.2 This Policy does not apply to:

- a) RGI units located in rural communities; and
- b) RGI units that fall under a third-party agreement between YHC and a Community Partner or funder that stipulates a required allocation model.

3. Purpose

3.1 The purpose of this Policy is to identify applicants on the corporation's waitlist who are eligible for the YHC priority stream (Section 5.2.1.1 of the Community Housing RGI Tenant Allocation Policy). This includes applicants who:

- a) have recently experienced intimate family violence; or
- b) require a medical accommodation.

3.2 This Policy establishes eligibility criteria for the priority stream and the prioritization process for eligible applicants.

4. Definition

4.1 "Barrier-free unit" is meant to accommodate a tenant in a wheelchair and can include a shower that can be rolled into with a wheelchair, wider than typical doorways, lower counters and/or cabinets, an oven that opens from the side and a ramp to access the building.

4.2 "Intimate family violence" incorporates the following terms:

4.2.1 “Perpetrator” means the person in a close relationship who behaves in ways that harm, control, or dominate another and is the individual’s spouse, common law partner, intimate partner, parent, close relative, or child.

4.2.2 “Violence” includes one or more incidents of deliberate behaviour in a close relationship in which one person chooses to dominate, control or harm another through physical or sexual force, actual or threatened, including emotional and/or financial abuse which leads an individual to fear for their safety, or the safety of a family member.

4.3 “Support Plans” provide a general outline of the supportive services that a tenant and supporting agencies/providers have identified as required for a successful tenancy. This Support Plan must include:

- A release of information for the support agencies/providers.
- Contact information and release of information for an “in case of emergency” or “next of kin”.
- A general outline of how this person is being supported i.e.: weekly meetings, monthly check-ins, budgeting, counselling, life skills training etc.
- What steps YHC should take in the event of any issues that may arise with the tenancy i.e.: who to contact, when to contact support providers, the best way to contact tenant regarding concerns.
- What information YHC should know about how to best support this tenant.
- Other agencies/organizations that are involved in supporting the tenant.

5. Eligibility

5.1 To be eligible for the YHC priority stream, applicants must meet the following criteria:

5.1.1 be in a situation of intimate family violence, be seeking temporary refuge with friends or relatives or be moving into, or living in, an emergency/transitional facility, and be at risk of further abuse from the “perpetrator”; **OR**

5.1.2 a household member requires a medical accommodation because they:

- i. have a severe, chronic or acute medical/health problem which requires prolonged or recurring treatment, care and/or support that is not available in their community of residence; **OR**
- ii. have a health condition that is, or is expected to be, of a prolonged nature and for which the required use of stairs by the mobility-challenged person to access the home or to function independently in the home presents a major health risk or impediment; **AND**

5.1.3 they meet all YHC Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Program eligibility criteria, including the asset cap policy (see exception section 6.2); **AND**

5.1.4 they provide a completed verification of priority form; **AND**

5.1.5 they provide a completed Support Plan.

6. Exceptions

6.1 An applicant seeking to be included in the priority stream can have rental arrears with YHC only if they are in compliance with the YHC Arrears policy;

6.2 An applicant seeking a priority based on their experience of intimate family violence is eligible if they have been in the Yukon less than one year.

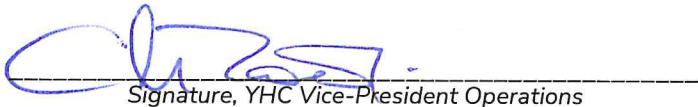
7. Prioritization

7.1 Applicants who are eligible for the priority stream will be listed and prioritized for RGI units in order of the date their completed application forms are received.

7.2 Accessible units will be prioritized for applicants with significant mobility challenges that require a barrier-free living environment. If no priority applicant is on the waitlist for such a unit, it will be allocated to someone who does not need an accessible unit.

8. Policy Review

8.1 This Policy shall be reviewed as required after implementation to ensure its effectiveness, as well as its continued alignment with Yukon government priorities and legislation.

YHC APPROVAL	Version: 1	Effective Date: Feb. 15, 2023
	Version: 2	Effective Date:
	Version: 3	Effective Date:
	Version: 4	Effective Date:
 Signature, YHC Vice-President Operations		

Related policies:

RGI Housing Program Board policy

Tenant Allocation policy

Rental Arrears policy

Asset Cap policy

Appendix 1: Priority verification form

Appendix 2: YHC Support Plan template

