

Communiqué

Issue

April 7, 2020

2020-2

The Requirements, Recommendations and Guidelines in this Communiqué are applicable to the social housing providers administered by the City of Hamilton.

✓	Providers Under <i>Housing Services Act, 2011</i>
✓	Providers Under a Federal Operating Agreement
✓	Requirement

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Extension

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, the City of Hamilton has extended the closure of City facilities and outdoor public spaces until at least **Monday, May 25, 2020**.

It is apparent that it will take some time to move through these challenging times, and the prolonged response to this emergency will continue to impact the Housing Community.

We've had to change the way we work as we continue to provide important essential services that support our community. Therefore, the strategies outlined in the previous [Communiqué dated March 26th, 2020](#) will be extended as otherwise directed by a future Communiqué from the Service Manager.

In addition, the following changes are required;

- **Resumption of Offers of Vacant Units**
- **Offers and Refusals**
- **RGI calculation and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)**
- **Cleaning and Sanitation Funding**

Resumption of Offers of Vacant Units

In an attempt, to reduce a backlog in the shelter system and provide necessary housing, Housing Providers are asked to resume offers, showings and lease signings by **April 20th, 2020**. This will allow time to adjust your processes to include more contact via e-mail, electronic documents submission and video conferencing as well as implementing physical distancing measures.



All Housing Providers are required to resume referring and housing Applicants from the ATH centralized wait list.

Offers and Refusals

During this period, an Applicant may refuse the offer due self-isolation requirements and physical distancing concerns. This will **not** count as a refusal and the Housing Provider will simply note the refusal as COVID-19 concern.

Following an applicant household refusal, a Housing Provider cannot request that ATH remove a household from any lists.

RGI calculation and the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB)

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) provides \$500 a week for up to 16 weeks for those who have stopped working because of COVID-19. Applications for this taxable benefit are available starting today at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html>

Any CERB received is considered income and must be **included for the purposes of the RGI calculation.**

Cleaning and Disinfection Funding

The City of Hamilton as Service Manager has issued funding for cleaning and sanitization related costs. By now, these amounts should be reflected in your accounts. Due to the timeframe extension, our office is investigating the possibility of a continuation of this funding. We will continue to monitor the situation during this time, including ongoing provincial and federal updates.

We thank you for everything you are doing for our City during this emergency. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated. While the City of Hamilton continues to be closed to the public and visitors, Housing Providers are encouraged to directly contact their Housing Administration Officers if they require any clarification.

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