



SOCIAL HOUSING ADVISORY GROUP

Terms of Reference

Objective

The Social Housing Advisory Group is a forum for housing providers and Regional staff to come together to share information and ideas related to social housing. The focus of the group is to promote the collaborative effort of all stakeholders in the identification of areas for improvement and the resolution of issues. The group is a joint partnership of these stakeholders and operates within a framework of open communication and respect for the diverse priorities of these groups.

Key Activities

- Provide a venue for regular and ongoing dialogue between housing providers and Regional staff.
- Provide feedback for communication and training needs of housing providers.
- Provide a venue for presentations by organizations interested in housing.
- Identify issues that impact on the effective operation of social housing and formulate plans for their successful resolution.
- Provide input and advice regarding issues of municipal discretion and proposed changes to Regional policy.
- Formulate recommendations for improvement to current Regional policies, procedures and practices.
- Develop consensus about issues and proposed recommendations for changes at the provincial and federal levels.
- Organize periodic focus groups, as required, regarding specific issues in order to obtain feedback from key social housing stakeholders.
- Support the implementation of *At Home in Durham*, the Durham Housing Plan 2014-2024.

Membership

- Membership is open to staff and board members from:
 - Designated housing providers under the Housing Services Act (HSA) including:
 - Durham Regional Local Housing Corporation (DRLHC)

- Non-profit and co-operative housing providers operating under Part VII of the HSA
- Non-profit housing providers operating under a pre-reform operating agreement (federal operating agreement)
- Alternative housing providers
- Non-profit co-operative housing providers operating under a federal operating agreement
- Other non-profit housing providers or private landlords that provide affordable housing or rental assistance through a Region of Durham program
- Supportive housing providers, including the Canada Mental Health Association (Durham) and Durham Mental Health Services and other MOHLTC or MCSS funded agencies that may provide supports or supported housing.
- Group members will also include designated Regional staff from the Housing Services Division and from Financial Housing Services.

Meetings

- Minimum quarterly meetings – may meet more frequently as required.
- Meeting schedule for each year will be determined at the last meeting of the previous year.
- Meetings are open to the public, and meeting dates will be posted to the Region's website.
- Region of Durham will have administrative responsibility for taking minutes of each meeting and distributing agendas and minutes to group members.
- Meetings will be chaired by the Manager of Housing Programs – Housing Administration.