



Durham Social Housing Directives

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| Subject: | ODSP AND CPP DISABILITY/OAS ALLOWANCE |
| Directive Number: | RGI 2014-02 |
| Date: | December 8, 2014 |

Purpose

Set out the rent-geared-to-income (RGI) calculations for tenants or co-op members with both ODSP and CPP disability income.

Background

Under the *Housing Services Act*, rent-geared-to-income (RGI) for ODSP benefit units is calculated according to a set social assistance rent scale. This scale is set out in Table 5 of O. Reg. 298/01.

The ODSP rent scale sets out the RGI charge based on the size of the benefit unit, as well as a non-benefit income (non-social assistance income) limit.

Section 48 of O. Reg. 298/01 states that the RGI for the benefit unit is the amount set out in the ODSP rent scale unless:

- the total non-benefit income is over the limit set out in Table 5
- CPP-disability income is greater than the ODSP basic needs for the benefit unit
- OAS Allowance income is greater than the ODSP basic needs for the benefit unit.

The different limits for ODSP benefit units that receive CPP disability benefits or the OAS Allowance means that these benefit units:

- often pay lower RGI than other ODSP recipients – even if the total non-benefit income amount is the same
- may become prematurely ineligible for ODSP due to artificially low shelter amounts, resulting in the loss of regular drug benefits for some CPP disability recipients.

In order to ensure that ODSP recipients are treated equitably and are able to maintain their ODSP benefits, including drug benefits, for as long as possible, housing providers are advised to calculate RGI as follows:

- Charge the applicable ODSP scale amount if non-benefit income (including CPP-disability or the OAS Allowance) is less than or equal to the non-benefit income limit set out in Table 5
- Charge 30% of non-benefit income (including CPP-disability or the OAS Allowance) if non-benefit income (including CPP-disability or the OAS Allowance) is greater than the non-benefit income limit set out in Table 5.

The comparison of the CPP disability or OAS Allowance amount to the ODSP basic needs amount is no longer required.

Table 5 – ODSP Scales

The RGI scale amounts for ODSP benefit units are set out in Column 2 of Table 5 of O. Reg. 298/01 below.

To use the table, select the size of the benefit unit in Column 1.

- If the non-benefit income for the benefit unit (including CPP disability or OAS Allowance income) is less than or equal to the non-benefit income limit set out in column 3 for the applicable benefit unit size, RGI is set at the corresponding amount set out in Column 2.
- If the non-benefit income for a household (including CPP disability or OAS Allowance income) is greater than the non-benefit income limit set out in column 3 for the applicable benefit unit size, RGI is calculated at 30% of non- benefit income (including CPP disability or OAS Allowance income).

| COLUMN 1 Benefit unit size (number of individuals) | COLUMN 2 Rent attributable to benefit unit (monthly) | COLUMN 3 Non-benefit income limit (monthly) |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | \$ 109 | \$ 440 |
| 2 | 199 | 817 |
| 3 | 236 | 941 |
| 4 | 278 | 1,081 |
| 5 | 321 | 1,224 |
| 6 | 363 | 1,364 |

| COLUMN 1 Benefit unit size (number of individuals) | COLUMN 2 Rent attributable to benefit unit (monthly) | COLUMN 3 Non-benefit income limit (monthly) |
|---|---|--|
| 7 | 405 | 1,504 |
| 8 | 448 | 1,647 |
| 9 | 490 | 1,787 |
| 10 | 532 | 1,927 |
| 11 | 575 | 2,071 |
| 12 or more | 617 | 2,211 |

Transitioning to New RGI Amount

Housing providers are required to adjust the RGI amount for ODSP benefit units receiving CPP disability or the Allowance on a “touch the file” basis – at the time of the next annual review or if a change is reported prior to this.

The RGI increase comes into effect on the first day of the second month following the date of notice.

ODSP benefits are received on the last day of the month and reflect shelter costs for the same month. This means that the RGI tenant or co-op member will have to pay the increased RGI on the first of the month, but will not receive the increased ODSP shelter amount until the end of the month.

In order to avoid hardship, housing providers may forgive the increase in the first month.

RGI Calculation Tool

Housing providers that use the Region of Durham’s RGI Calculation Tool should not enter the CPP disability or OAS Allowance amounts in the designated areas under Regular Income (CPP Dis. and Sp Allow).

Instead, CPP disability and OAS Allowance income should now be entered under CPP and OAS only. This will ensure that RGI is calculated according to this directive.

The ODSP basic needs amount is no longer required and does not need to be entered.

Effective Date

This directive comes into effect on the date it is issued. RGI increases will be calculated on a “touch the file” – at the time of the next annual review or if a change is reported prior to this.

Legislative Authority

Ontario Regulation 298/01, s. 48 and 49