



Definitions of terms used by Housing Connections

Alternative Housing



is a type of non-profit housing for the homeless and those hard-to-house because of mental health or addiction issues, emphasizing the provision and maintenance of stable housing and community development. They are not required to use the central waiting list to fill their vacancies.

Co-operative Housing (CO-OP)



is collectively owned and managed by its members (the people who live there). Cooperative members actively participate in decision making and share the work involved in running the housing community. Applicants can apply for co-ops through Housing Connections. However the co-ops, and their committees, make the final decision to determine suitability when choosing members. As a member of a co-op, you must volunteer and take part in the management of the building.

<http://www.torontorentals.com/aboutCoopHousing/aboutCoopHousing.html>

Family

Family units may be restricted to groups of individuals who have always lived together as a family unit.

Housing Connections Community Link



an agency that is affiliated to Housing Connections but does not have access applicant information or the waiting list database. They offer clients housing information and referrals.

 **Housing Connections
Community Partner**



is a community agency partnered with Housing Connections providing services in a variety of languages and helping clients with their housing search and application process. They have access to the waiting list database and are trained in Housing Connections policies and procedures. Click [here](#) for a complete list of Housing Connections Community Partners.

 **Housing Development**



Houses and apartments are often built and managed in groups known as developments or communities. Many are operated by Toronto Community Housing and others are run by private non-profit organizations or housing co-operatives.

 **Housing Provider**

The organization that manages and/or owns the housing development.

 **Mandate**



A housing provider that requires its tenant to fulfill certain requirements, such as being a certain age (for seniors housing), or being in a certain situation (homeless or abused). Other examples of mandate include religious or ethnic orientation. Mandates must be approved by the City of Toronto.

 **Market Rent**



is the rent paid by a household that is not receiving rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance in a particular building. Many social housing developments have a mix of both market rent units and units that have the rent-geared-to-income.

* Mixed Housing or Building



Housing that all clients on the waiting list can apply for.

* Private Non-Profit Housing



This housing is usually owned and managed by a sponsoring group such as a religious group, labour union, or other community organization.

* Resource Centre



at 176 Elm Street, provides clients with one-stop access to affordable housing including self-serve tools access to waiting list for rent-g geared-to-income housing and various housing programs and rental services.

* Rent-Geared-to-Income



means that rent is calculated based on your income type and amount. It is 30% of the gross household income.

* Rent Supplement



Rent Supplement units are located in private rental buildings, but tenants pay their rent geared-to-income. It is important to note that clients cannot choose to be on the waiting list for individual rent supplement buildings - instead, the client chooses a subzone (from the Housing Listings available at our Resource Centre and [online](#)) and is placed on the waiting list for all rent supplement units in that subzone.

* Senior



is an individual who is 59 years of age or older. However, some housing providers have mandates that consider seniors be at least 65 years of age. You may not apply for any building with a seniors mandate until at least one member of the household is 59.

* Shared



In a shared accommodation, an individual will usually have his or her own room, but share amenities such as the kitchen, bathroom, and other common living spaces with other tenants in their unit.

* Social Housing Reform Act (SHRA)



is the Ontario law that sets all the rules for social housing in Ontario.

 **Supportive Housing**



offers support services on site to assist tenants to live independently. For example, some providers offer support for youth or people with substance abuse problems. Housing Connections does not maintain a list of supportive services available. Clients should contact housing providers directly.

 **Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC)**



Toronto Community Housing

The largest provider of rent-geared-to-income housing in Canada.