

1. Authority

1.1 This Policy is issued under the authority of the Yukon Housing Corporation (“YHC”) Board of Directors

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; and
- f) for families and individuals receiving social allowances or social assistance.”

2. Application

2.1 This policy applies to all applicants to the Seniors’ Medical Accommodation Policy and their household members.

2.2 This policy applies to all YHC Rent Geared to Income Housing Program tenants who are housed under the Seniors’ Medical Accommodation Policy.

3. Purpose

3.1 The purpose of this policy is to assist seniors who must relocate from their primary residence based on health or medical needs that cannot be accommodated by available housing in the private market.

3.2 This policy establishes the eligibility criteria for persons seeking housing for the Rent Geared to Income Housing Program.

3.3 The intent of this policy is to accommodate Yukon seniors by offering housing under the Rent Geared to Income Housing Program either:

- a) Within their current community in a seniors-designated Rent Geared to Income Housing Program unit that better meets their critical health or medical needs; or
- b) In another Yukon community served by YHC that can better meet their critical health or medical needs.

4. Definitions

- 4.1 A “medical accommodation” applicant is a senior (with or without other household members) whose present residential location or community cannot safely accommodate:
 - a) their life threatening medical/health problems that require prolonged or recurring treatment, or
 - b) their significant mobility issues that prevent the safe use of stairs and require a barrier-free living environment.
- 4.2 A “senior” is defined as an individual who, at the time of application, is:
 - a) 65 years of age or older, or
 - b) 55 or older and has a verified disability and/or mobility challenge.
- 4.3 “Household Income Limits” (HILs) are the established maximum income thresholds permitted in order to be considered for the Rent Geared to Income Housing Program.
- 4.4 A “health care provider” for the purpose of this policy is defined as a physician or a community nurse practitioner.

5. Eligibility

- 5.1 Under this policy, income level(s) will not impact eligibility for applicants applying for the Rent Geared to Income Housing program. HILs (Household Income Limits) will be waived.
- 5.2 The Applicant must demonstrate that they cannot be accommodated by the private market, or by other services if more appropriate (i.e., Continuing care).
- 5.3 The Applicant must provide an “independent living” support plan (i.e., a list of supports who will help the Applicant maintain independence).
- 5.4 In order to be eligible under this policy, applicants must comply with the YHC Asset Policy as it pertains to seniors.
- 5.5 In order to be considered under this policy, applicants must provide a completed Medical Accommodation Form signed by a health care provider as defined in the definitions section of this policy.
- 5.6 Medical accommodation applicants must meet all other YHC Rent Geared to Income Housing Program eligibility criteria and adhere to all YHC policies.

6. Process

- 6.1 Seniors applying for medical accommodation must provide YHC with a completed Medical Accommodation form signed by a health care provider and outline how independent living will be maintained.
- 6.2 If an applicant is moving from their current community to a new community, the Medical Application form must indicate that care is available in the new community that meets the applicant’s specific health or medical needs.
- 6.3 If an applicant is staying in their current community, the Medical Application form must indicate that relocation to a YHC unit will improve access to care that will meet the applicant’s specific health or medical needs.
- 6.4 If an applicant’s specific health or medical needs may be met in Dawson City, Watson Lake or Whitehorse, YHC staff may offer social housing units in these communities.
- 6.5 No other documentation (from a physician or otherwise) will be accepted in lieu of the Medical Accommodation form. An applicant will not be considered for medical accommodation until the Medical Accommodation form is received and approved by YHC. The Medical Accommodation form is valid for three months from the date of signature.
- 6.6 The applicant is entitled to turn down any unit based on reasonable cause without affecting their wait list priority.
 - 6.6.1 Reasonable cause will be determined by the Director of Housing Operations but may include: accessibility, location or size of unit as well as suitability for approved pets as outlined in the YHC Pet Policy.
- 6.7 If the applicant declines two units without cause, the applicant shall be removed from the wait list and must re-apply if they wish to be re-considered for the Rent Geared to Income Housing Program.
- 6.8 Applicants must be made aware of their opportunity to decline a unit and the number of declines they are allowed (without reasonable cause) before impacting their wait list priority.

7. Policy Review

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed as required after implementation to ensure its effectiveness and compliance, as well as its alignment with Yukon government legislation.

YHC APPROVAL	Effective Date: January 1, 2016	Version Number:
	President, YHC Approval: (original signed)	Chair, YHC Board Approval: (original signed)