

Toronto Community Housing Corporation
 931 Yonge Street
 Toronto, ON
 M4W 2H2



Briefing Note

To: Tenant Services Committee (“TSC”)

From: Sheila Penny, Chief Operating Officer (“COO”)

Date: August 17, 2021

Re: **Public Action Item #5:** City of Toronto’s Centralized Waiting List for Social Housing

At the July 5, 2021 TSC meeting, the TSC requested Management to provide an overview of the City of Toronto’s centralized waiting list for social housing, including the overall number of households waiting for residency and by how many the waitlist is reduced monthly or annually.

Background

All Toronto Community Housing (“TCHC”), rent-geared-to-income (“RGI”) tenants are selected through the City of Toronto’s Centralized Waitlist (“CWL”), which is managed by Access to Housing at the City of Toronto.

The CWL is managed on a first-come-first-serve basis, where applicants receive an offer for RGI housing based on the date of their application approval. In addition, provincial regulations stipulate the prioritization of specific groups ahead of those without a priority code on the CWL. These groups include:

1. Special Priority Program: survivors of family/domestic abuse and human trafficking (provincially mandated priority);
2. Terminal Illness: applicants who have less than two years to live (provincially mandated priority); and
3. Overhoused Households: tenants living in RGI units that are larger than units they qualify for.

Acting in its capacity as the Service Manager, the City is empowered to implement its own priority policies in addition to the provincial regulations

listed above. In Toronto, there are local priority rules, which outline the prioritization of the following applicants:

1. Homelessness: applicants experiencing homelessness, living in a shelter, including homeless newcomers;
2. Separated Families: families separated because of a lack of affordable housing; and
3. RGI Youth Applicants: youth who are 16+ years old at the time of application for RGI housing.

As of Q2 2021, there were 78,177 individuals on the CWL that are waiting for residency. In 2020, there were a total of 1,641 individuals housed by TCHC through the City's CWL. Specifically, there were 301 individuals housed by TCHC in Q2 2021.

Table 1: City of Toronto CWL and Housed by TCHC, 2020 & 2021 YTD

	2020				2021	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
CWL Wait List	78,500	78,683	79,768	81,664	79,332	78,177
Housed by TCHC	308	395	379	559	911	301