



# County of Wellington Social Services Department – Housing Services DIRECTIVE

---

---

**Directive Number: 2020-08**

**Effective Date: July 16, 2020**

This directive has been developed by the County of Wellington in its role as Consolidated Municipal Services Manager (CMSM) and applies to housing providers funded under the following social housing programs:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| √ | <b>Provincially Reformed Non-Profit Housing Programmes</b>            |
| √ | <b>Provincially Reformed Co-operative Housing Programmes (Co-ops)</b> |
|   | <b>Local Housing Corporation (LHC)</b>                                |
|   | <b>Service Manager Funding Agreement (Post EOA)</b>                   |

---

---

**Subject: 2021 Benchmarked Operating Costs and Revenues Indices**

**Legislative Reference:** Housing Services Act, 2011, O. Reg. 369/11, s. 6(1) and s. 13(1)

**Policy Reference:** N/A

**Directive Reference:** N/A

**Attached:** N/A

## **Background**

On an annual basis, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) provides cost and revenue indices to calculate subsidies under the *Housing Services Act, 2011 (HSA)*.

This directive communicates the 2021 Market Rent Index for HSA O.Reg. 369/11 Part II housing providers and the 2021 Cost Factor indices for HSA O.Reg.369/11 Part II and Part III housing providers, located in the County of Wellington and the City of Guelph.

## Cost Factors

Cost Factors to increase the Benchmarked Operating Costs are used in the calculation of Part II and Part III Housing Providers' Operating Subsidy under the Benchmark Funding Model of the Housing Services Act, 2011 as set out in O. Reg. 369/11. Commencing with fiscal years beginning in 2008, published cost indices reflect a standard single-year index. See Table 1 for the 2021 Cost Indices.

Revenue Factors

The 2021 Market Rent Index is calculated as the lesser of the percentage change in local average market rents, as reported by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and the Ontario Rent Increase Guideline. The Market Rent Index is used in the calculation of operating and rent-g geared-to income (RGI) subsidies for Part II housing providers. See Table 2 for the Market Rent Index.

The Market Rent Index relates only to Part II providers. Published Market Rent Indices within a Service Manager's area could range from a negative factor (a market rent reduction) to a positive factor similar to the Rent Control Guideline. Each year the prior year's indexed Benchmark Market Rents are to be adjusted by the Market Rent Index applicable to each project.

In order to maximize geared-to-income subsidy levels, it is recommended that housing providers ensure that actual Market Rents charged to market tenants/members equal or exceed the Indexed Benchmark Market Rents as geared-to-income subsidy is only reconciled to the lower of these two amounts.

**Direction**

The following 2021 indices are to be applied to the 2020 indexed benchmarked amounts under the HSA's Benchmark Funding Model:

**Table 1**

|    | <b>Cost Indices</b>          | <b>Part II<br/>(Mixed MKT/RGI)</b> | <b>Part III<br/>(100% RGI)</b> |
|----|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Administration & Maintenance | -0.43%                             | -0.43%                         |
| 2  | Insurance                    | 5.92%                              | 5.92%                          |
| 3  | Bad Debt                     | MRI*                               | -0.43%                         |
| 4  | Electricity                  | -13.07%                            | -13.07%                        |
| 5  | Water                        | 3.01%                              | 3.01%                          |
| 6  | Natural Gas                  | -5.57%                             | -5.57%                         |
| 7  | Oil & Other Fuel             | -26.83%                            | -26.83%                        |
| 8  | Capital Reserves             | -0.43%                             | -0.43%                         |
| 9  | Market Rents                 | MRI *                              | N/A                            |
| 10 | Vacancy Loss                 | MRI *                              | N/A                            |
| 11 | Non-Rental Revenue           | N/A                                | N/A                            |

\* Providers with a portfolio of projects situated in more than one zone and/or with more than one unit type in the same zone are to utilize the highest Market Rent Index applicable within their portfolio/project to inflate their benchmarked Bad Debt and Vacancy Loss figures.

**Table 2**  
**\* Market Rent Indices – Part II Providers Only**

| <b>Zone 1 – West</b>   | <b>Townhouse</b> | <b>Apartment</b> |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Fife Road Co-op<br>Guelph Independent Living<br>Guelph Non-Profit: Westwood, Imperial, Flaherty<br>Royal City Co-op<br>UpBuilding! | 0%               | 0%               |
| <b>Zone 2 - South</b>  | <b>Townhouse</b> | <b>Apartment</b> |
| Cole Road Co-op<br>Guelph Non-Profit: Christopher Court  | 0%               | 0%               |
| <b>Zone 3 - East</b>   | <b>Townhouse</b> | <b>Apartment</b> |
| Guelph Non-Profit: 394 Auden, 470 Auden, Neeve, York<br>Victor Davis<br>Wyndham Hill Co-op   | 0%               | 0%               |
| <b>Guelph - CMA</b>  | <b>Townhouse</b> | <b>Apartment</b> |
| Clifford<br>Gerosia<br>Grand River<br>Mount Forest<br>New Hope   | 0%               | 0%               |

**Application**

All housing providers must use the 2021 indices, as detailed above, in the calculation of their rent geared-to-income and operating subsidies for the fiscal year beginning in 2021. When used in the budget form, each index is expressed as a decimal number plus 1. For example, 2.2% is expressed as 0.022 plus 1 = 1.022; -2.2% is expressed as -0.022 plus 1 = 0.978.

Please contact your Housing Programme Advisor if you require further clarification.



Mark Poste  
 Director of Housing



Alternative Formats Available Upon Request