



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Who is OAHS?

OAHS is Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services which is a non-profit housing provider with a focus on the Aboriginal community.

In 1992, consultations took place across the province with the grass-roots members of the off-reserve Aboriginal Organizations to determine the need for affordable, adequate and suitable housing for low and moderate income Aboriginal families and individuals.

A steering committee was formed consisting of Ministry of Housing personnel and two representatives each from the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC), the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Association now known as the Native Housing Providers of Ontario (NHPO), the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) and the Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association (OMAA). On September 1, 1994, the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation was incorporated, with two representatives from each of the above organizations forming the Board of Directors. NHPO and OMAA have since withdrawn from the board, and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has joined.

What available units do you have?

We have numerous Rural locations across Ontario that offer mostly 3-bedroom single family homes. We also have Urban housing that offers homes and apartments of various sizes in the following towns and cities: Blind River, Cochrane, Dryden, Manitoulin, Peterborough, Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Sudbury (Hanmer).

How do I get on the Central Applicant Registry?

There are three ways to get on the Central Applicant Registry:

- By filling out an application online at www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca
- By calling toll-free at 1-866 391-1061 ext. 308 register your application over the telephone.
- By faxing your application to 1-705-256-1664 Attn: Central Registry
- By mailing your application to:

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services
Attn: Central Applicant Registry
500 Bay Street
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1X5

Am I guaranteed a unit now that I am on the Registry?

No. Each applicant must later provide detailed information and go through a detailed screening and application process.

OAHS will maintain or access a waiting list of eligible applicants for the rental of non-profit units. Applications will be drawn from the waiting list in chronological order but priority will be given to applicants that are experiencing one or more of the Mandatory Placement Criteria. If the waiting list fails to produce applicants that fall under the Mandatory Placement Criteria, OAHS will then place applicants into the units by chronological order.

Are there priority applicants?

Yes, we certainly consider need. We also prioritize families/persons escaping violence; people who are without housing to be without housing through no fault of their own; people with no alternative but to separate and seek living accommodations with other family members because of the lack of affordable housing; people currently living with hazardous, unsafe or inadequate facilities.

Are utilities included in the rent?

For most of our rental units, utilities are paid by the tenant. For some of our multi-unit properties, utilities are included in gross rents but there may be surcharges for ancillary equipment such as air conditioners. Please contact one of our Regional Offices for details.

Are appliances included?

Each unit will have a stove and fridge.