



Homes for Special Care (HSC) Program Overview

HSC is a voluntary program in which an Owner/Operator of a home provides residential care to individuals with a serious mental illness. The program is open to individuals who may no longer require hospitalization or to those who live independently in the community and may now require assistance. Home dynamics and personal safety are major factors when a referral is reviewed by an Owner/Operator prior to accepting a new tenant into their home. Community case management may be required prior to admission into the program. Potential tenants must agree to the conditions of a supervised co-operative living environment. Administered by the HSC - Regional Outreach Services of the North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC), the homes fall under the Residential Tenancies Act and are funded and licensed by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) under the Homes for Special Care Act. Home operators receive a per diem transfer payment from the MOHLTC for their services. Each home is privately owned and operated.

Admission Criteria

To be considered for HSC, an individual must:

- Meet the admission criteria of *Regulation 636 of the Homes for Special Care Act* and the requirements of the NBRHC, HSC Office;
- Have a serious mental illness that is currently stable;
- Be 18 years of age or older (case by case under 18 yrs) and;
- Require some level of 24-hour supervision and support and, at the discretion of the Owner / Operator, the level of support needed can be met by the home.

The referral, Individual Tenant Plan and / or discharge plan must be comprehensive to ensure the safety of all staff and tenants in the home. Admission will not be considered for applicants who:

- Are clinically unstable;
- Have a recent history of uncontrolled violence;
- Have a history of behaviour that poses a serious fire hazard; or
- Require 1:1, 24-hour nursing care or a locked or secure setting.

Services provided by a Home for Special Care include:

- Meals, laundry, medication management and some level of 24-hour supervision on a short or long-term basis;
- Compliance with the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT) policies and HSC program funding for personal care items, such as toiletries, clothing, eyeglasses and dental care;
- Transportation;
- Social and recreational activities; and
- Support from staff of the HSC home.

The Role of Field Workers

The roles of field workers who administer the Homes for Special Care Program includes:

- Assessing individuals referred by facilities and service providers for admission to the HSC program with recommendations regarding suitability of potential tenants to the Owner / Operators;
- Providing support and direct service to tenants and operators to promote recovery and assist with reintegration into the community;
- Improving the quality of life for tenants by identifying gaps and recommending services and programs (i.e. social, recreation, assistive devices, hair care, etc.); and
- Managing administrative and financial tasks, such as:
 1. Providing education / teaching to the tenants, Home Operators, families, government and community agencies regarding the program and policies;
 2. Monitoring HSC homes for compliance as per the HSC Operating Guidelines;
 3. Re-licensing homes annually with assistance from Fire Inspectors, Public Health Inspectors and the Home Operators;
 4. Reviewing tenant expenditures for clothing, dental, medication, vision, toiletries, transportation, recreation activities and reviewing special funding requests based on tenant needs and budget allocations; and
 5. Approving and submitting invoices for payment to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for comfort costs.

Referral Process

The referral process is initiated by the referring source by completing a Homes for Special Care referral package and forwarding it to the HSC Office.

For referral package contact: The HSC field office at 705 474-8600 X4241 or X4242.