



	REPORT NO.: 2018-53
MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 18, 2018	DATE PREPARED: AUGUST 13, 2018
SUBJECT: PORTABLE HOUSING BENEFIT POLICY	

RECOMMENDATION

THAT with respect to Report No. 2018-53 (Housing Services Division) we, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, approve the Portable Housing Benefit Policy as presented.

REPORT SUMMARY

To present The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB or the Board) with information related to the implementation of a Portable Housing Benefit Policy.

BACKGROUND

In the Winter of 2017, the *Housing Services Act* was amended (O. Reg 367/11) to give Service Managers the option to offer locally-funded portable housing benefits in addition to traditional rent-geared-to-income (RGI) programs.

Unlike RGI and other housing assistance programs, portable benefits are tied to the resident, not to the physical housing unit. Residents are not required to live in a dedicated unit and can take their housing benefit with them if their housing needs or preferences change. Residents have more flexibility to choose where they live with the portable benefit.

COMMENTS

The main benefit of the Portable Housing Benefit is the client-centered approach that allows the subsidy to move with the individual which offers people freedom to choose where they live. In addition, the Portable Housing Benefit provides an additional tool for TBDSSAB to provide greater access to a variety of housing options instead of being limited to traditional social housing stock. Lastly, the Portable Housing Benefit will result in more households with mixed incomes living in communities due to greater ability to diversify their housing portfolio.

Recipients of a Portable Housing Benefit would be selected from the centralized waiting list using selection system rules of the *Housing Services Act, 2011*, including provincial priority rules to count toward the TBDSSAB's Service Level Standards.

During the 2018 Budget presentations, additional investment was requested and subsequently approved for the addition of new Rent Supplement Units, as well as to support the new Portable Housing Benefit, once this program was defined by the province.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



The approval and implementation of the Portable Housing Benefit Policy will not require additional funds in 2018. This program will be implemented with approved 2018 budgeted funds that were intended for the Private Landlord Rent Supplement program and the Portable Housing Benefit program.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report provides the Board with information relative to the adoption of the Portable Housing Benefit Policy.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ATTACHED

Attachment 1: Portable Housing Benefit Policy

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POLICY

CATEGORY/SECTION

HOUSING SERVICES – HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS

SUBJECT

PORTABLE HOUSING BENEFIT

AUTHORITY

Housing Service Act, 2011

INTENT OF POLICY

Recognizing its role in providing safe, secure, affordable housing to the community, The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) delivers a number of unique programs. The Portable Housing Benefit is one such program. The Portable Housing Benefit allows individuals that qualify from the social housing waitlist to receive a rent supplement payment to facilitate them securing a home in private market rental housing.

POLICY

The TBDSSAB will deliver a Portable Housing Benefit that is consistent with the standards established by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Households supported through this Portable Housing Benefit will be selected from the social housing waitlist. This benefit will count towards TBDSSAB's Service Level Standards.

STANDARDS OF APPLICATION

Individuals and families on the social housing waitlist will be eligible for the Portable Housing Benefit, as one option to obtain housing.

The funding framework established by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing allows for Service Managers to calculate the household subsidy using a minimum 80% average market rent (AMR) up to a maximum of 100% AMR. TBDSSAB will adhere to these standards when calculating the household subsidy under the Portable Housing Benefit.

RELATED POLICIES

None

Committee Review Date: NA
IMPLEMENTATION / BOARD APPROVAL DATE:

Month date, YYYY

REVISION DATE(S):

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CATEGORY/SECTION HOUSING SERVICES – HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PROGRAMS	SUBJECT PORTABLE HOUSING BENEFIT
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RELATED PROCEDURES

PRC Portable Housing Benefit

FORMS

None

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Committee Review Date: NA
IMPLEMENTATION / BOARD APPROVAL DATE:

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