



INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO LIVE AT

1900 SHEPPARD: A COMMUNITY OF YOUNG MOTHERS

Application Process

1. The application form needs to be completed and returned to Humewood House by email Irene.martino@humewoodhouse.com or fax 416-654-3670.
2. All completed applicants will be notified that their application has been received.
3. Applications will be reviewed by staff.
4. Qualifying applicants will be interviewed by staff by phone or in person.
5. References will be called.
6. Following the interviews the staff will make a list of applicants for the Selection Committee to review.
7. The Selection Committee will make the final decision and refer the successful applications to TCHC for their approval.
8. A signed Service Agreement with Humewood House and a Service Plan is required before signing the lease with Toronto Community Housing Corporation.
9. Rent payment is due when signing the lease with TCHC.
10. A waiting list will be created if all units are occupied.

Background

1900 Sheppard is a young parent resource centre in North York managed by Humewood House in partnership with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) and community agencies. It will provide transitional and supportive housing for 27 young families and a range of programs for young parents in the community. The new building will have 27 units, 23 one bedroom units, ranging in size from 440 sq. ft. to 500 square feet and 4 two bedroom units 725 sq. feet. **The maximum stay at 1900 Sheppard is four years.**

We believe that young families have inherent strengths and that through community engagement and by cultivating a positive environment where they can thrive, young mothers can make a difference in the lives of their children and their community. Our goal is to provide young mothers who had their children when they were teens with stable housing and a range of programs and supports to assist them to develop the skills and life experiences to become independent and self sufficient.

1900 Sheppard is not just about housing, it is about creating a community where young mothers and their children can actively participate as they learn, share and grow in a healthy, safe and supportive environment.

Who can apply?

- Mothers 16 to 19 years of age and their children, who had a child when 19 or under
- who are on the waiting list for rent geared to income housing with Housing Connections
- are without a permanent home (homeless), living with friends or family (under housed) or need affordable housing and
- are ready to live independently and are prepared to work towards self sufficiency.

Requirements

- Must qualify and be on the waitlist for Rent Geared to Income with Housing Connections. housingconnections.ca (click on apply online)
- Be willing to voluntarily accept support services from Humewood House
- Be ready prepared to move into a unit in 2008.
- Have custody of their child(ren) or whose reunification with their child is dependent only upon stable housing. (a letter is required to confirm is reunification)
- Have the ability to work with community services as evidenced by past or current agency involvement
- Be willing to participate in children's programs or parenting workshops
- Be willing to participate in the 1900 Sheppard community by attending a minimum of 50% of tenant meetings, participating on a committee and or volunteering in a program. The expectation is all tenants will volunteer a **minimum of 5 hours a month.**
- Have adequate life skills to live on their own (demonstrated ability to provide for adequate food and nutrition, can obtain adequate monthly finances)
- Have organizational skills and responsibility to follow through (as evidenced by participation in an employment or school program, or through enrolment of child in a day care or child development program)

Accommodations can be made for individuals with special circumstances, including:

- Addictions
- CAS involvement
- Mental health diagnosis
- Health issues

- Involvement with youth justice
- Child has identified special needs

NOTE: women who are eligible for the Special Priority Program for victims of domestic violence may not be considered for referral to these units, as they already have priority access to all Rent Geared to Income (RGI) units in Toronto.

The Humewood House philosophy of service includes the following values that are integral to our work. We believe in:

- Each person's worth, dignity, potential and ability to make choices;
- A non-judgmental approach to individuals and their choices;
- An atmosphere that reflects anti-bias, anti-racism and racial equality;
- A holistic and culturally sensitive approach to client service;
- Participatory decision making at all levels of the organization;
- Use of available resources to benefit clients;
- Partnerships and being an integral part of the community;
- The value of continued learning and the development of increasing self awareness; and
- The importance of a safe supportive environment.

Programs and Services

On the lower level of the building are three rooms for programming. Humewood House will manage the space and work with community partners to provide a range of programs and supports for the tenants and young families in the community.

Young Parent Room

There is a room designated for young parents. This space will have a donation room, food bank and children's play area. Regular programs will be offered for the tenants and young families in the community.

Community Room

This community space will be for special events, meetings, cooking programs and workshops. Members of the local community will be able to apply for use of the space.

Resource Centre

The resource centre will have computers, counselling rooms, magazines and books, employment information and brochures from the community. It will be staffed for specific hours during the week.

Food Bank and Donation Room

A food bank and donation room will be established in the young parent room.

Names and Contact information for more information

Humewood House

Audrey Ashley	1900 Community Support Worker	647-349-0109
Irene Martino	Community Programs Manager	416-651-5657 Ext 224

TCHC

Housing Connections	416-981-6111
Tenant Services Coordinator (TCHC)	416-981-4942

Your Rights and Responsibilities

As a tenant of 1900 Sheppard you have the right to:

- Be treated with respect
- A safe environment
- Ask for support and be heard
- Expect others to take responsibility for their actions
- Know the rules and your responsibilities
- Understand and know your legal rights
- have privacy and confidentiality
- have your own feelings, opinions and beliefs
- Be involved in your goals and in any changes made to them
- Know how to make a complaint, understand how your complaint will be handled by the staff, and know what you can do if you are not satisfied with the results

As a tenant at 1900 Sheppard you have responsibility to:

- Pay your rent
- Take part in programming for yourself and your child
- Follow through with the rules and expectations as established by the tenants association, TCHC, or staff and accept the consequences for your own actions
- Attend a minimum of 50% of the tenant meetings
- Volunteer a minimum of 5 hours a month to a committee or program at 1900 Sheppard
- Follow through with the requirements as listed in the service agreement
- Maintain custody of your child
- Respect the rights of the other tenants of 1900 Sheppard
- Not gossip about others
- Contribute to a safe environment. Threats and bullying will not be tolerated
- Look after yourself and your child
- Keep the building secure and only let your guests into the building
- Limit overnight guests
- Listen and respect others feelings, opinions and beliefs
- Be responsible for your actions and obey the rules of 1900 Sheppard