Overview of the Applicant Portal for Affordable Housing Applications

Community Housing Access Centre now offers an online application platform in addition to the paper application. The Application Portal

- Is accessible 24/7 from any device with internet access
- Allows applicants to add affordable housing applications with documents 24/7
- Downloads applications directly into IHS for CHAC staff review

Where does the application go?

Submitted applications and attached documents will appear in the Integration Housing System (IHS) where they will be reviewed by CHAC staff.

System generated emails will notify clients when the status of their application changes. For incomplete applications, Community Housing Access Centre staff will follow up with the applicant to arrange for submission of additional information.
COMING SOON! In a future release, applicants will be able to update the information on their application (e.g. contact details, financial information, household members) through the Portal similar to the My Benefits portal used by Social Assistant recipients.

### Benefits of the Affordable Housing Applicant Portal

- Apply online from any device with Internet access 24/7
- Same questions as paper application
- Upload documents directly into Portal
- Built-in “Help” buttons provide more details
- Can start & save, re-start an application
- Email confirmation lets applicant know the status of their application
- Applications load directly into Housing system for staff review

### How to Apply for Affordable Housing via the Applicant Portal

To apply for affordable housing online, one active email address is required for the household. This email address is used to register for the Portal, and is the address where CHAC staff will send information about the application. Once registered, a user will receive an activation email where they can log in to their existing account to start a new application, continue a saved application, complete building selections and in future (late 2023), manage their information.
Step #1 Check Eligibility

To check if you are eligible for these programs, everyone on the application (all household members including children) must:

- Be a Canadian citizen, a landed immigrant, or have applied for permanent residency, or refugee protection in Canada with no active removal orders in place
- At least one person in the household must be 16 years of age or older and can live independently or arrange for required support services
- Not owe any money to another social housing provider for a previous community housing tenancy
- Agree to sell any home that you own that could be lived in year-round (or that you share ownership of) within six months of accepting an offer
- Have a household income that is below the maximum income allowed for each unit size
- Have assets that are below the allowable asset limit for your household size

### Annual Household Income Limits effective January 1, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit Size</th>
<th>Housing in Wellesley, Wilmot Township</th>
<th>Housing in Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, North Dumfries, Woolwich Township</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
<td>$34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Bedroom</td>
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<td>$44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bedrooms</td>
<td>$42,500</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bedrooms</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+Bedrooms</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$74,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step #2 Prepare required information and documents

When adding attachments to the application such as proof of Status in Canada or income documents, check that they have been saved in a readable format such as PDF, JPEG, JPG, BMP, PNG, GIF, or HEIF Format.

Before you start your application, please gather the following information and documents:

For your Household

You will need to provide:

- Your current address OR if no current address, a mailing address.
- Contact information – phone numbers, e-mail addresses where we can reach you.

For each Household Member

You will need to provide:

- Full legal name (as it shows on their Status in Canada document)
- Date of Birth
- Status in Canada (you are required to attach a copy of their Canadian Citizenship document, Canadian Birth Certificate, Proof of Permanent Residency or Proof of Refugee Claimant Status)
- Income Information (you are required to attach a copy of either the most recent Canada Revenue Agency notice of assessment or other documents that confirm the source and amount of income received)
- Asset information (you will be required to attach a proof of any assets totaling $50,000 or more)

Please complete all the sections that apply to your household

Use the buttons at the bottom of each page to move forward or backward between sections. Do not use the backward or forward arrows on your browser.

Remember, when adding attachments such as proof of Status in Canada or income documents, they must be in a readable format such as PDF, JPEG, JPG, BMP, PNG, GIF, or HEIF Format.
Step #3a Register for a New Account with an Existing Email Address

To apply online, the primary applicant registers using an active email address. Only one email address per household is required. Once registered, the primary applicant can create, save and submit an affordable housing application by logging in with the user name and password created during the registration process.

During registration, a verification email will be sent to the email address provided by the applicant. Access to that email inbox is required to proceed with the registration.

Open an Internet Browser (e.g. Chrome, Edge) and visit https://waterloo.arcoristcl.com/waitlist

Press ‘Begin Online Application Now” (1) to register and create an account.

Enter the New User Registration Details (2)

- First Name
- Middle Name/Initial
- Last Name
- Primary Phone Number
- Email Address

Acknowledge the program requirements (3)

Press the Register button (4).
Check your email inbox for a verification email. Click on the link in the email to confirm your registration and set your password. Log in to your account to begin an application.

Sample confirmation email

From: IHS Admin <Admin@arcori.com>
Sent: March 14, 2023 1:57 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Confirm your account

To complete the registration and set your password, click the link below:

https://na25252f5b
Step 3b Create or Update an Application with an Existing Account

If an applicant has previously registered for the Applicant Portal, they can log in with the user name and password set during the registration process. Open an Internet Browser (e.g. Chrome, Edge) and visit https://waterloo.arcori-istcl.com/waitlist. Choose “Update/Continue Existing Application” (A).

Log in with the user name and password (B) set during the registration phase (C). If the password is unknown or has been forgotten, use the “Forgot your password?” link to reset a password. To reset the password and log in, access to the email address used during registration is required.
Step #4 Enter Information about the Household

Primary Applicant Information

On this page, you will provide information about the primary applicant. Some of the fields have been completed based on the information provided during the registration process. Required fields are marked with an *

- Proof of Canadian Citizenship or Canadian Permanent Residency
  - A list of acceptable documents will be available by pressing the help icon.
  - Press Select File to locate and attach a digital copy of the document on the computer (Accepted file types: PDF, JPEG, JPG, BMP, PNG, GIF, or HEIF Format.)
  - If the document you wish to upload does not appear it may be in a format that is not accepted

- Are you able to live independently?
  - Answer “yes” if you are able to complete the tasks of daily living independently: getting dressed, eating, dispensing medication, getting around the community, etc.
  - If you require supports to complete the tasks of daily living, please verify the answer is “no.”

- Is there a co-applicant?
  - If you have a spouse/partner or other household member over the age of 18 that can be used as a contact person if you are unavailable and who will be residing with you, please answer “yes.” Enter the name and details for the co-applicant.
Household Members

Are there other adults, and/or children who will be living with you that you would like to include on the application?

If yes, please press the +Add button and enter the name and details for each person.

Finished?

Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page.

Communication Preferences

On this page, indicate languages spoken. Preferred language is automatically set to English. We will communicate with you in English.

Receive Correspondence Preference?

- Select Mail or Email by pressing the down arrow. If you choose mail, we will mail information about your application or notify you when we need more information to process your application. If you choose email, we will contact you at the email address you entered on the first page.

Do you use an interpreter?

- If you use an interpreter, answer “yes.” Enter the name, phone number and language of the interpreter
- If you do not use an interpreter, please verify the answer is “no.”
Alternate Contacts

An Alternate Contact is a person such as a friend or other relative who is not listed on your application and does not live with you. You can give us permission to contact this person about your application if we are not able to reach you to make an offer for an affordable housing unit. You can remove your consent, or change your alternate contact at any time.

- To add an Alternate Contact person or people, press the +Add button.

A new window will open. Enter the first and last name. Choose the type of contact from the list. Required fields are marked with a *
- If you want to give us permission to contact this person on your behalf, answer to “yes” “Do you consent for us to contact this person”
- Press the +Add button to add the person’s phone number.
- Press the +Add button to add the person’s email address.
- When all information has been entered, press +OK at the top left to return to your application

Finished?
Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Household” button in the bottom left.

Current Living Situation

On this page, please provide details about your current living situation. The Living Situation “Rent” and “Date Moved In” are already completed.

- To select a different living situation press the down arrow. Adjust the Date Moved in to show the date you started living in your current situation.
- The information required on this page adjusts depending on the living situation selected.
- Complete the required details for your current living situation.

Mailing/Safe Address
If your mailing address is the same as your current residence address, press “Copy from Current.” The address you entered in “Current Residence Address” will be copied over to the Mailing/Safe Address. We will send information to you at this address.

For all types of living situations, you have the option of providing a mailing/safe address that is different from where you are currently staying. We will send information about your application to that address.

This could be a friend’s or relative’s address where you would like us to send information about your application for affordable housing because it is not safe for you to receive this information at your current living situation. If you have concerns about your safety, please consider adding a mailing/safe address.

- To add a Mailing/Safe Address that is different from where you are currently staying, check the box beside Mailing/Safe Address and press the Edit button

- A box will open. Enter the number, street name, street type, direction, unit number if applicable, municipality, province and postal code.

- Press OK at the top left to return to the Current Living Situation screen.

Additional Questions about your Current Living Situation
• Answer to the remaining questions

Finished?

Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Communication Preferences” button in the bottom left.

Previous Living Situation

On this page, enter details about your previous living situation.

• Press the +Add button to provide details about your previous living situations. In the window that opens, add the details of your previous living situation.
• When finished, press the +OK button in the top left to return to the previous screen
• To copy your current living situation from the previous page, press “Copy from Current” button.
Reasons for Applying

Please let us know why you are applying for these programs. This information helps us better understand the needs of our community.

- Select as many reasons that you like by pressing "on"
- Add additional details in the box.
Finished?

Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Previous Living Situation button in the bottom left.
On this page, tell us about your housing needs so we can match you to the best options. It is important to indicate any needs that you may have so we can help you.

- If you require assistance with activities of daily living such bathing, managing personal finances, dispensing medicating, meal preparation, basic housekeeping or other activities please let us know.
- If you require an additional bedroom, please select the situation from the list.
- If you own a vehicle and require parking, please answer “yes”

**NOTE:** The number of units with parking is limited. The need for parking may increase wait time.
Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Reasons for Applying” button in the bottom left.

Financial Information

The information you provide will be used to determine the type of program you may be eligible for. Individuals who file their income taxes will receive a Notice of Assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency.

Upload Notice of Assessment

- Notice of Assessment from Canada Revenue Agency is the preferred document. If you have a current Notice of Assessment, please upload it on this page.

On this screen, all of the household members are listed. Please provide income information for all members 16 years of age and older.

- Select a person in the household by clicking on the row with their name. Press the Edit button on the left side of the screen to add information for this person.

The Edit Income box will open.

- Did the Household Member complete their income tax in the last year?
- Does your income reflect your current tax situation?

If yes to both of these questions:

- Enter the amount on line 23600 – Net Income of your Notice of Assessment or T1 General
- Attach a digital copy of your Notice of Assessment.
- Press the Select file button to locate the file on your computer.
- List the types of income you received
  - Click in the box to see the list of income types such as employment, self-employment, Ontario Works, Employment Insurance, etc. Select as many income types as needed.
- Press OK to return to the Financial Information page and answer the remaining 3 questions. Enter details if yes to any of the questions about Assets.

Finished?

Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Accommodation Requests” button in the bottom left.

If NO to either of these questions:

- Did the Household Member complete their income tax in the last year?
- Does your income reflect your current tax situation?

If Income Taxes have not been filed and/or the current Income Tax situation is not reflected in the Notice of Assessment, press the +Add button.
Enter details about each type of income source. Required fields are marked with *

Press OK to return to the Edit Income window. Add each source of income for each household member ages 16+ OR upload Notice of Assessment for each household member ages 16+.

If answers to both questions are YES, enter line 23600 and upload Notice of Assessment.
If one answer is NO, add each source of income for each household member 16+

Once you have entered all of the income information for all household members 16 years of age and older, answer the 3 questions at the bottom of the Financial Information page. Provide details if answering “yes.”
Finished?

Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Accommodation Requests” button in the bottom left.

Priorities

Please select any of the circumstances if they apply to you. You will be required to complete and submit a separate request for each priority group you select. Links to the required forms will be provided here for easy access. Eligibility for selected priorities will be assessed according to Provincial standards. When preparing documents for upload, please remember that accepted formats are PDF, JPEG, JPG, BMP, PNG, GIF, or HEIF Format.

To learn more about the Special Circumstances/Priorities, visit the “Find Affordable Housing” page on the Region of Waterloo’s website at www.regionofwaterloo.ca
criteria for each priority can be found under the heading “How vacancies are filled”.

Finished?

Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Financial Information” button in the bottom left.

Assistance

Please share information about any assistance you require. This information will be used to match you to the best options. If you require Support Services, please share the
name of the provider, and details of the support needed. Before accepting an offer and moving into a unit, support services must already be in place and confirmed. A letter from the Support Services provider confirming the support services is required.

Finished?

Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Priorities” button in the bottom left.

Attachments

Please remember that accepted formats are PDF, JPEG, JPG, BMP, PNG, GIF, or HEIF Format. Please attach all required documents including

- Citizenship documentation for every person in your household including children
- Income information for every person 16 years of age and older
- Proof of full time school for all children 16 years of age and older

Additional Forms if Applicable

- Request for Additional Bedroom form
- Declaration of Intent to Sell
- Request and verification forms for priority requests

Press the +New Attachment button to add a digital copy of a document.
• Give the document a name and description.
• Press the Select File button to locate the file on your computer. You may also drag and drop the file to attach it.
• If the document you wish to upload does not show, it could be in a format that is not accepted.
• Press Save to return to the Attachments page.

Please remember that accepted formats are PDF, JPEG, JPG, BMP, PNG, GIF, or HEIF Format.
After a document has been uploaded, you can choose to preview it or download it.

- Select the line that contains the item you wish to preview/download
- Press the Preview button to view it in another window or
- Press the Download Attachment button to save it to the computer
- To delete an item, press the Delete button

Press +New Attachment to add additional items if required.
Finished?

Press the Save and Continue button in the bottom right corner to move to the next page. To return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Application Assistance” button in the bottom left.

**Step #5 - Declaration**

All household members listed on the application who are 16 years of age or older must read and confirm their agreement in order to us to consider your application. To submit your application, please select “yes."

- For each household member 16 years of age or older, press the button to slide the answer to “yes” if you agree.

![Image of declaration section]
Step #6 - Consent

This page describes how we use the information provided in your application.

- For each household member 16 years of age or older, press the button to slide the answer to “yes” if you agree.

To save and return to the previous page, press the “Save and return to Declaration” button in the bottom left.

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Step #7 - Submit Application to Community Housing Access Centre

If you are finished and wish to send the Application to us, press the “Save” button in the bottom right.

Thank you for submitting your application. We will review it as soon as possible.

If any information is missing or further documentation is required, we will contact you to let you know what is needed to complete your application.

Click here to continue to the main page

Once your application is submitted, you will receive a confirmation email. If additional information is required to assess your application, we will contact you to discuss what is needed and how you can submit the information to us. Each time your application status changes, you will be notified by email.
Questions/Concerns

For more information about Community Housing Access Centre, affordable housing programs and services, please visit our website [www.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca) or contact 519.575.4400.

For assistance with the Applicant Portal, email housingapplication@regionofwaterloo.ca