



HFS Shelters' Dietary Restrictions and Accommodation Policy

GENERAL PRINCIPLE

Whenever possible, Homes First shelter staff will make accommodations for residents with food allergies, religious or cultural dietary restrictions and/or medically prescribed diets.

Policy:

Homes First staff will accommodate dietary restrictions based on food allergies, religious, or cultural observances, and/or for medically prescribed diets. Residents who require food accommodations will be required to provide a physician's note within 72 hours of intake at Homes First shelters.

Residents of Homes First shelters will have access to a non-vegetarian and vegetarian food options (e.g., beans or soy-based products) at every meal time.

Food preparation will, as much as possible, reflect the cultural diversity of shelter residents. Every attempt will be made to mark special cultural holidays and traditional occasions with special meals.

If it is not possible to accommodate a resident's dietary needs, Homes First staff will work with residents to develop a dietary plan that meets the resident's needs including, but not limited to, applying for special diet allowances or referring residents to nutrition support programs.

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- As per Toronto Shelter Standards, 2016: Sections 9.2.2(d)(i).
 - Created on February 22, 2017.
 - Approved by HFS Governance and Nominating Committee on February 25, 2017; to be reviewed in 2022.
 - Approved by HFS Board of Directors on March 28, 2017.
 - The Policy applies to all Homes First Society shelters.