

County of Huron

2019 ANNUAL HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS REPORT

www.HuronCounty.ca/housing



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Background

“Promoting the health and well-being of individuals and families is at the core of the mission to end homelessness. There is a cost of doing nothing that is ultimately borne by the community – and there are community benefits associated with acting to end homelessness and increase access to housing that is stable and affordable.”

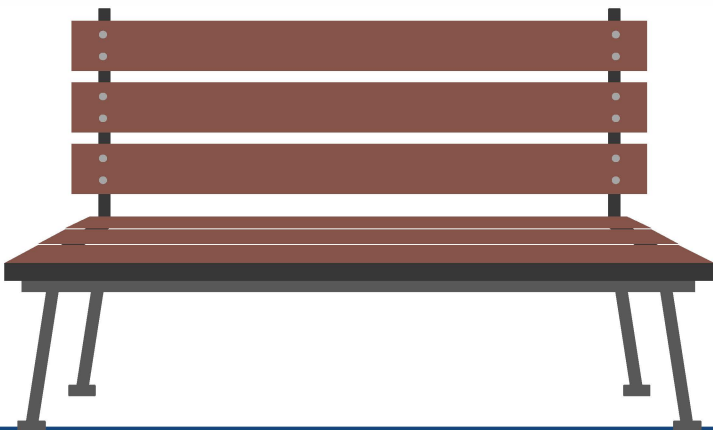
2014-2024 Huron County Long-Term Affordable Housing
& Homelessness Plan for the County of Huron

Three over-arching and interconnected goals of the Huron County Housing & Homelessness Plan are:

- Preventing Homelessness
- Ending Homeless
- Increased Access to Affordable Housing and Housing Supports

The nine strategic areas to fulfill these goals:

1. Establish a Framework to Provide Leadership, Governance and Advocacy
2. Expand Access to Affordable Housing
3. Improve Data Collection and Reporting
4. Develop and Emergency Service System Oriented Toward Ending Homelessness
5. Increased Targeted Efforts to Prevent Homelessness
6. Improve Service Coordination
7. Use Municipal Tools to Facilitate Affordable Housing
8. Preserve and Improve Existing Social Housing
9. Establish a People-Centered System of Housing and Homelessness



Affordable Housing

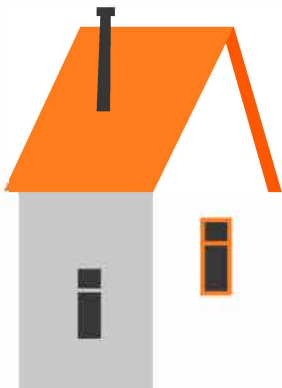
Affordable housing is part of the basic infrastructure of the community, much like water and sewage services and roads, or policing and medical services. Housing is the foundation that enables people to be able to stay safe and healthy and to be able to find employment or attend school.

Projected Number of Affordable Housing Units Required by 2024 by Municipality:

	Total Affordable Dwellings (not including PSH)	RGI* PSH**	Total New Construction, Acquisition, Rent Supplement	Number of units required for persons making...				
				≥\$642 per month	\$643 - \$1,149 per month	\$1,150 - \$1,541 per month	\$1,542 - \$2,596 per month	Affordable Homeownership Dwellings <\$30,000 per annum
ACW	14	7	21	4	4	3	2	1
Bluewater	15	7	22	5	3	4	2	1
Central Huron	21	9	30	3	3	9	2	2
Goderich	26	10	36	8	6	7	3	2
Howick	7	3	10	2	2	1	1	1
Huron East	20	9	29	3	3	8	3	3
Morris-Turnberry	8	3	11	2	2	2	1	1
North Huron	9	3	12	3	2	2	1	1
South Huron	21	8	29	3	3	9	2	4
HURON COUNTY	141	59	200	33	27	45	17	17

* RGI refers to Rent-Geared-to-Income Housing

** PSH refers to Permanent Supportive Housing



2019 Community Homelessness Prevention

100

100 Unsheltered or Provisionally Accommodated to Transitional Housing

36

36 Unsheltered Accommodated to Long-Term Housing

12

12 Households from Emergency Shelter to Transitional Housing

80

80 Households Experiencing Homelessness Received Services and Supports

169

169 Households at Risk of Homelessness Received Supports to Stabilize and Prevent Housing Loss

54

54 Unique Individuals Access Emergency Shelters

Understanding Homelessness

What is it to feel homeless?

How would I survive the experience of homelessness?

How do I offer comfort and support to the trauma of homelessness?

How does it feel to be without the orienting geography of home?

How do I help?



“Homeless populations are a heterogeneous group. The problem is programs and services are designed with homogeneity” and therefore do not meet the unique and diverse needs of each person.

“Differences matter when it comes to understanding self-determination of people who experience homelessness as well as in supporting individualized supports to allow people to exit and be supported post-homelessness.”

De Jong, 2019

Huron County Housing Programs

Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy is a multi-year plan to stabilize and grow Ontario's community housing sector, with the aim of achieving the following outcomes and measures of success:

Strategic Outcomes	Desired Intermediate Outcomes
Increased supply and appropriate mix of affordable and adequate housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased non-profit, co-op and municipal affordable rental supply • Housing stock is in better state of repair and meets the housing needs of the people of Ontario • Greater involvement of the private sector to support more opportunities for affordable and mixed-income buildings
People have improved access to affordable housing and supports that meet their needs to achieve housing stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are better connected to housing assistance and supports that are responsive to their complex and changing needs • People live in safe and well-maintained housing • People have more choice about their housing and opportunities to participate in the economy and their community • People experiencing homelessness obtain and retain housing
Improved efficiency of the community housing system to ensure value for money and long-term sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved system and inter-ministerial coordination to better identify and respond to people's needs • Improved system management and provider sustainability to better provide a range of housing options • Increased administrative efficiency • Reduced pressure on other service systems including health, social services, emergency, criminal justice

Over time, the Community Housing Renewal Strategy will help Ontarians be more connected to housing assistance and supports that better meet their needs, live in safer and well-maintained buildings, find housing more easily, and have more opportunities to participate in the economy and their community.

The Community Housing Renewal Strategy is complemented by the Housing Supply Action Plan, which is focused on enhancing housing in the broader housing market. Creating more housing, of the types and sizes people need, will help make home ownership and renting more affordable and give people more choice.

Together, Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy and the Housing Supply Action Plan demonstrate the government's commitment to supporting the creation of housing that responds to all Ontarians' needs, across all incomes.

Funding Initiatives



Huron County received first year funding for COCH/OPHI and were able to assist Huron County residents in the following ways:

Canadian-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)

Supplied and installed new vinyl windows at Second Stage Housing in Clinton

Ontario Priorities Housing Initiatives (OPHI)

OPHI Funding 2019/20 assisted with Home Ownership, Ontario Renovates projects and Housing Allowances in our communities as follows:

Home Ownership:

- Funding assisted one family with down payment to purchase a home

Ontario Renovates:

- Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detectors in 84 Community Housing Family Units
- Replacement energy efficient stoves and fridges in 49 Community Housing Units
- New energy efficient upgrade of insulation and cladding at 52 Bristol Terrace, Wingham
- Electrical upgrade at Seniors Building at 45 Alfred Street in Wingham
- 5 Private home Ontario Renovates projects

Housing Allowance:

- Housing Allowances are a monthly subsidy to assist with rental costs to make housing costs more affordable and sustainable. OPHI Funding provided assistance to a further 6 Seniors and 2 persons with disabilities in our community.

Investment in Affordable Housing Extension Program

Huron County as well received further funding in the Investment in Affordable Housing Extension Program. With this funding, the following assistance was provided to those living in our community.

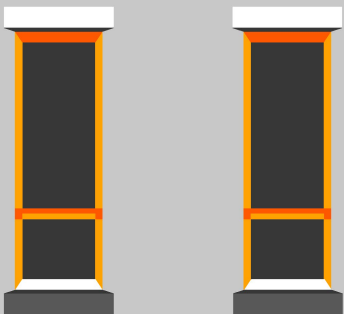
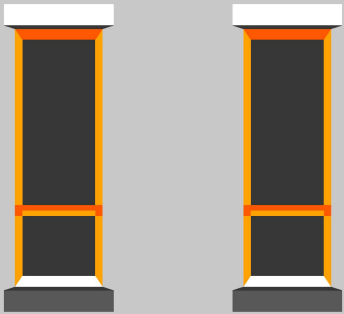
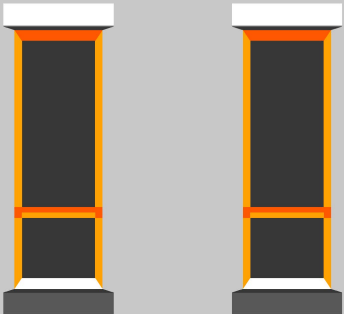
Housing Allowance:

14 households supported with rental costs last year

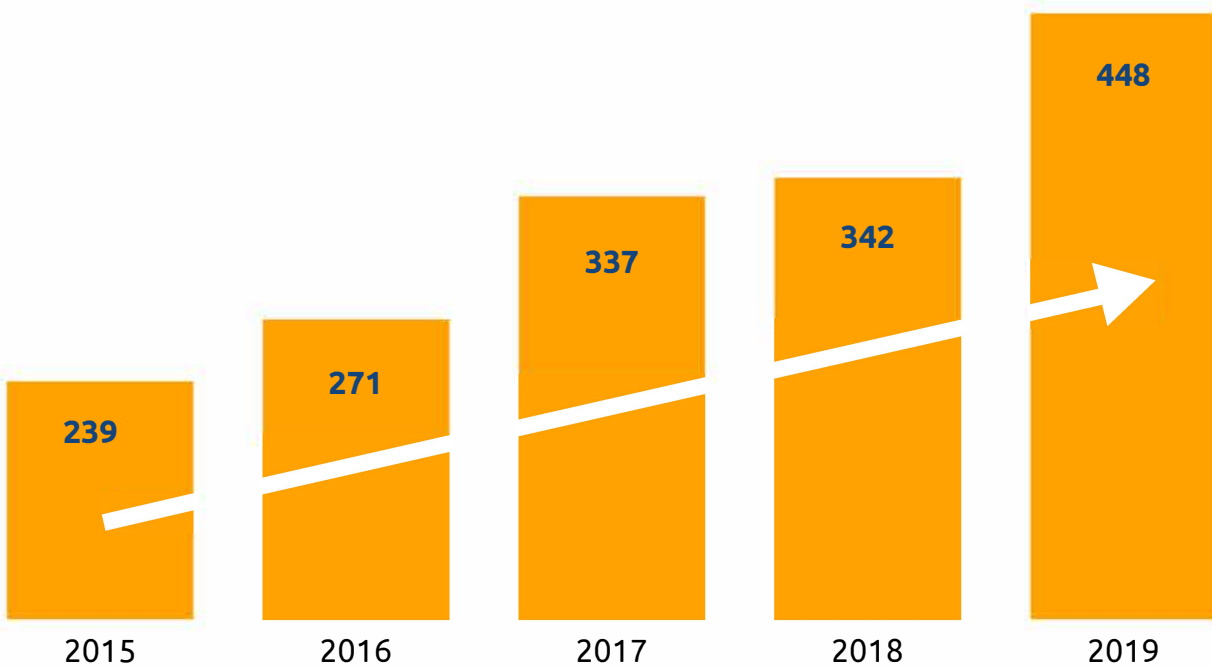
- 2 Seniors
- 7 Persons with disabilities
- 5 Working Poor

Ontario Renovates:

3 Ontario Renovates Recipients



Community Housing Waitlist



Current Waitlist

Waitlist Break Down by Household Type (from 2019 SMAIR)

- No Dependents: 246:
- With Dependents (Families): 99
- Seniors: 103

Average Incomes in Community Housing by Family Type (from 2019 SMAIR)

- Families: \$20,169
- Seniors: \$19,480
- Non-Elderly Single: \$12,755

Acknowledgments

We dedicate this Annual Report to our friend and colleague Beth Patterson. Beth was a strong advocate for those marginalized in our community and in the battle to see everyone achieve housing stability. She is missed.

Our sincere thanks to all members and agencies of the Housing and Homelessness Steering Committee for their dedication to the vision that everyone deserves the opportunity to obtain safe and stable housing.

CMHA Middlesex – Lorraine Schatzler

CMHA Huron/Perth – John Robertson

Huron County Planning – Victor Kloeze

OPP Officer – Joanna Van Mierlo

Choices of Change – Catherine Hardman

Safe Homes for Youth – Vicky Parent

Perth Huron United Way – Ryan Erb

Huron County Council – Goderich Mayor, John Grace

Huron Women's Shelter and Second Stage Housing – Corey Allison

Huron-Perth Public Health – Pam Hanington

Goderich/Clinton Salvation Army – Shannon Daniels and Angela Kerr



Citations

De Jong, Iain. 2019. "The Book on Ending Homelessness"

Robinson, Catherine. 2011. "Beside One's Self; Homelessness Felt and Lived"

Ministry Of Municipal Affairs And Housing May 2019. Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) & Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) PROGRAM GUIDELINES