

Be Part of the Solution.

Addressing housing instability
and homelessness in Huron.



HEART TO HOME

Preventing & Addressing Homelessness in Huron County

Housing Continuum



It's easy to confuse the various terms associated with supported, affordable, and attainable housing. While each of these terms addresses a unique aspect of the Housing Continuum, it is important to note their distinctions:

- **Homelessness** refers to individuals who are sleeping rough, couch surfing, accessing emergency shelter, or utilizing temporary transitional housing.
- **Supported Housing** is housing that includes wrap-around supports such as meals, health services, mental health and addiction supports, life skills, and more.
- According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), housing is **Affordable** when a household spends less than 30% of its pre-tax income on adequate shelter.
- **Attainable Housing** is adequate housing that can be afforded by people earning around the Area Median Income (AMI).
- **Market Housing** is housing available for rent or purchase at price determined by the market.

Affordable Housing Crisis

According to CMHC, housing affordability has reached crisis levels in Ontario. Home prices and rents have increased while rental vacancy rates are extremely low. Restoring housing affordability will require more housing construction. Affordable housing can include housing in private, public, and non-profit sectors—not only subsidized housing.

The County of Huron continues to work with its many partners and stakeholders to increase the availability of affordable housing in the community. We're taking a variety of actions to address housing needs across the entire housing continuum. It is important to ensure that housing is available at all points on the continuum so that everyone in Huron County has access to safe and affordable housing.

Learn more about the actions being taken to address the Housing Continuum:
HuronCountyConnects.ca/housing-continuum

Fundamental Right to Housing

The Corporation of the County of Huron is dedicated to enhancing the social and economic well-being of Huron County through the creation and preservation of affordable housing.

The County supports an individual's fundamental right to housing without discrimination as protected under Ontario's Human Rights Code.

What we're doing to *Be Part of the Solution.*

There are three main ways to address homelessness:

- 1. Prevention:** Stopping people from becoming homeless in the first place.
- 2. Emergency Response:** Providing emergency supports like temporary shelter, food, and day programs, while someone is experiencing homelessness.
- 3. Housing, Accommodation, and Supports:** Providing housing and ongoing supports to move people out of homelessness for good.

The County of Huron is working with many other local groups and organizations to prevent and address homelessness in our community. Here's how:



The Stability Team

The Stability Team are specially trained staff who work directly with people in crisis. These caring professionals help connect people who are homeless, or who are at risk of becoming homeless, with the various services and supports they require such as a safe place to sleep, food, warm clothing, access to healthcare services, and more.



Emergency Sheltering and Transitional Housing

The County of Huron partners with multiple organizations to provide emergency sheltering for those in crisis as well two transitional housing programs: Huron Turning Point Residence and Addiction Supportive Housing (ASH).



By-Name List

The By-Name List allows individuals in crisis to self-identify and communicate their unique needs to those who can help. Through this information collection process, staff become better aware of who and how many people in our community need supportive services.

Learn more at: HuronCounty.ca/homelessness



Coordinated Action System

Utilizing the data collected from the *By-Name List*, County of Huron staff lead the *Huron County Homelessness Coordinated Access System*. This system ensures that local organizations can better work together to effectively address the specific needs of those experiencing homelessness within the community. The County of Huron is *Built for Zero Community* that has achieved a *Quality By-Name List* from the *Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness*.



Communications

There are many myths and falsehoods about homelessness. The County of Huron's Communications Team makes sure that people in Huron County have access to facts, data, and learning resources that help with understanding. They also ensure that the community is well informed on the various activities and programs designed to prevent and address homelessness in their community.

To learn more visit: HuronCounty.ca/homelessness



Prevention Programs

The County of Huron runs many programs that are designed to prevent people from becoming homeless, such as Pathways to Self Sufficiency. Other programs include owning and operating 415 rent-geared-to-income apartment units, as well as a variety of programs for both landlords and tenants.



Financial Support

Sometimes the best way to stop a person from becoming homeless is to support them with funds that help them pay for the things they need so that they can continue to afford to live in their current home. The County of Huron works with other levels of government to deliver financial aid programs, such as housing allowances, rent supplements, Ontario Works, and the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit.



Housing Developments

The County of Huron is increasing its affordable housing inventory through the development of three new affordable housing developments.



Future Planning

The County of Huron's Planning and Development department is addressing the community's need for more affordable housing by promoting and permitting more dense housing developments. For example, Additional Residential Units are permitted to be added to existing residential properties; this helps to create units which are more affordable.

New Housing Developments in Huron County



Bennett Street, Goderich: 2 Triplexes

Two new triplexes have been developed on Bennett Street in Goderich. They were developed on an existing County housing site with funds from the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative, Social Services Relief Fund, and the County of Huron.



Sanders Street, Exeter: 20 Units

A 20-unit apartment building is currently under construction on Sanders Street in Exeter. It is being constructed on an existing County housing site utilizing funds from the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative*.



Gibbons Street, Goderich: 40 Units

Construction on a 40-unit apartment building on Gibbons Street in Goderich is anticipated to begin in 2024. This apartment building will be constructed on a site that was sold to the County of Huron from the Town of Goderich for one dollar*.

* Additional funding continues to be sourced to support the Sanders and Gibbons projects.

Five ways you can *Be Part of the Solution.*

1. Become informed and don't spread false information.

There are many myths and falsehoods around the topic of homelessness and how people can become homeless. Learning more about homelessness and housing instability can help increase understanding. Explore the resources found at the end of this booklet for more information.

2. Speak up! Advocate for those experiencing homelessness, hurt and hunger in your community.

Sadly, people facing homelessness are often subject to various forms of discrimination. Poverty, physical and mental health, and substance use concerns are not reasons to deny a person's fundamental right to housing without discrimination as protected under Ontario's Human Rights Code.

If you hear inflammatory language or witness discriminatory actions, speak up! Advocate for those in the community who may be more vulnerable. If you're unsure if a statement is valid or discriminatory, try taking the [*cringe test*](#), found on [HuronCounty.ca/homelessness](https://www.huroncounty.ca/homelessness)

3. Welcome Supportive and Affordable Housing in your community.

To *Be Part of the Solution* it is essential to welcome affordable housing developments in your own neighbourhood. It takes an entire community, including multiple levels of government, many stakeholders, neighbourhoods, and the public to create a welcoming atmosphere for housing that improves life for everyone in our community.

4. Consider donating locally.

Consider donating to a local agency that's meaningful to you and supports our community's most vulnerable citizens, such as emergency shelters, food banks, clothing drop offs, and more.

5. Participate in local events that support vulnerable people.

Events like *The Coldest Night of the Year* are a great way to get involved. The Coldest Night of the Year is a fun, family-friendly fundraising walk that supports local non-profit partners who provide essential care and service for people experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger. Learn more: www.cnoy.org

Resources

Housing instability and homelessness in Huron

Huron County Housing

huroncounty.ca/social-services/housing/#homelessness

2022 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report

huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2022_Housing_and_Homelessness_Annual_Report.pdf

Huron Heart to Home

huroncountyconnects.ca/huron-heart-to-home

Take the Cringe Test

huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CringeTest.pdf

2021 Enumeration Report

huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/EveryoneCounts_2021Enumeration.pdf

Housing instability and homelessness in Ontario

Perth-Huron United Way: Unignorable

perthhuron.unitedway.ca/unignorable-issues/#unignorable-homelessness

Ontario Housing Strategy

ontario.ca/housingstrategy

Housing instability and homelessness in Canada

The Homelessness Hub

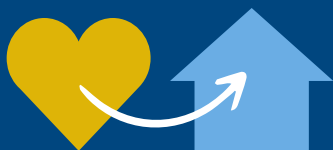
homelesshub.ca

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness

caeh.ca

Built For Zero Canada

bfzcanada.ca



**Learn more about what you can do
to Be Part of the Solution.**

HuronCountyConnects.ca/Heart-to-Home

