



ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS OTTAWA

The Way Forward

- ✓ DEFINE THE NEED
- ✓ PLAN FOR IT
- ✓ PRIORITIZE PREVENTION
- ✓ INNOVATE

7,937



INDIVIDUALS

Accessed a shelter in Ottawa in 2018

219



FAMILIES

Were living in off-site motels in 2018

- * 10% of Ottawa's shelter users are **YOUTH**
- * 21% of single shelter users in Ottawa are **SINGLE WOMEN**
- * 28% of all unique shelter users, and 51% of families living in Ottawa's shelters are **NEWCOMERS**

INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACROSS OTTAWA

1) Plan – Do – Measure – Adjust

In 2014, the City of Ottawa adopted a 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan that committed to ending chronic homelessness by 2024. As we enter the mid-point of the Plan we need to reassess - as a community - our key priorities and re-define our goals to meet changing local needs.

Ottawa also needs to ensure it has costed out and allocated the resources necessary, financial and other, to effectively meet the targets assigned to the next five years of our Plan, including to:

- ✓ Conduct a Housing Needs Assessment to identify the range of affordable housing need and supply for different income levels and household types.
- ✓ Work with the Alliance and local social service agencies to develop a coordinated access system integrating all homelessness and housing services.
- ✓ Measure, benchmark and set targets on the pathways into and exits out of homelessness and bring all relevant agencies onto the HIFIS data system.
- ✓ Develop flexible, responsive strategies that allow for local policies and priorities to be adapted to changing needs in the community.

2) Invest in Homeless Prevention and Long-Term Housing Stability

Although there has been progress in some areas of the City's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, we continue to see increasing numbers of homeless families and individuals seeking shelter in Ottawa. Health concerns, increasing drug overdoses, family violence, the continued influx of newcomers and other structural and systemic causes of homelessness persist. A clear homelessness prevention and diversion strategy for Ottawa would better support a range of needs in our community.

- ✓ Pro-actively assist families and individuals to obtain and retain housing, such as through housing search, counselling, emergency financial assistance, and landlord mediation.
- ✓ Provide targeted supports to those at risk of eviction and homelessness, including support for victims of domestic violence and those with mental health and addictions challenges.
- ✓ Improve discharge planning and coordination with correctional facilities, hospitals and shelters to direct individuals to appropriate housing with the necessary supports.
- ✓ Use a coordinated systems-level lens, working with Ottawa social service agencies, to align program and service priorities to ensure effective funding, policy and program delivery and evaluation in developing a prevention-based homelessness approach

3) Use Every Available Tool to Create More Affordable Housing

Ottawa's Official Plan identifies affordable housing as key to urban livability and establishes annual targets for affordability in new development. However, the priority assigned to affordable housing can be significantly strengthened to achieve much more meaningful progress towards achieving these targets.

- ✓ Commit to creating and protecting a dedicated annual capital investment envelope earmarked for new affordable housing development.
- ✓ Expand the City of Ottawa's definition and supply of affordable housing across a range of income thresholds.
- ✓ Make full use of Inclusionary Zoning policies and tools to define a city-wide strategy for the inclusion of affordable housing.
- ✓ Allow for greater innovative use of the City's Action Ottawa program to better leverage federal and provincial funding.
- ✓ Prioritize mixed-income neighbourhood planning and the inclusion of affordable rental housing in all Transit Oriented Development (TOD) planning targets adjacent to transit hubs and LRT stations.
- ✓ Pursue opportunities for federal and provincial funding for new development of mixed-income and mixed-use affordable rental housing in the private and nonprofit sectors.

For more information visit us at:



www.endhomelessnessottawa.ca



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