

# HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING UMBRELLA GROUP 2012 REPORT CARD

This 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Report Card and its accompanying booklet have been produced by the Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG) to bring awareness to the issues of homelessness and housing in Waterloo Region.

People need housing, income, and support to maintain housing stability in their lives. Specifically,

- **Housing** must provide security of tenure and be desirable, affordable, safe, adequately maintained, accessible and a suitable size. In addition, the more “at home” someone feels both in their community and in their housing, the more likely it is that the person will stay housed and avoid re-entering the cycle of homelessness.
- People must have enough **income** to sustain the minimum standards for rent, utilities, food, health, clothing, education, transportation and recreation.
- People must have the opportunity to access additional **support**, as needed, to help them live as independently as desired and to connect to others in meaningful ways.

**Everyone has a role to play in ending homelessness and promoting housing stability in Waterloo Region – all orders of government, businesses, not-for-profits, groups, landlords and residents.** The accompanying Report Card Booklet further reviews the report card data and examines the connection between housing and health.

The 2012 Report Card measures **change in housing stability indicators in 2011 compared to 2010** accounting for growth in population and inflation. A glossary of terms and explanation of the data can be found on the HHUG website at [www.hhug.ca](http://www.hhug.ca).

## HOMELESSNESS

C-

- There was a 17.5% increase in number of shelter bed nights accessed and a 9.58% increase in number of people using emergency shelter.

## RENTAL HOUSING COST AND INCOME

C

- All areas remained basically unchanged however, slight increase in rent.

## RENTAL HOUSING AVAILABILITY

C-

- Although the supply of Community housing increased, the private rental market did not.
- The vacancy rate has dropped to 1.7% - far below the ideal of 3%.

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

D+

- The number of people on the wait list has grown significantly.

## OVERALL HOUSING STABILITY GRADE

C-

- MARGINAL WORSENING.
- Need for housing and supports are growing faster than supply.

Our Grades: **A** = Significant Improvement  
**D** = Some Worsening

**B** = Some Improvement  
**F** = Significant Worsening

**C** = No Improvement

The **Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG)** is a non-partisan group consisting of concerned individuals, agencies and groups committed to preventing and reducing homelessness in Waterloo Region.



Homelessness &  
Housing Umbrella Group

		2009	2010	2011
<b>Homelessness</b>				
C-	• Number of emergency shelter bed nights	68,019	67,943	79,529
	• Number of people served by emergency shelters	2,841	2,859	3,133
	• Percentage of emergency shelter residents returning:			
	• Returning within the same year	20%	25%	22%
	• Returning in more than one calendar year over the past five years	27%	28%	26%
<b>Rental Housing Cost and Income (Affordability)</b>				
C	• Average Market Rent			
	• bachelor	\$584	\$589	\$608
	• one bedroom	\$722	\$740	\$751
	• two bedrooms	\$856	\$872	\$889
	• three or more bedrooms	\$990	\$1,012	\$1,010
	• Average Housing Wage			
	• bachelor	\$11.33	\$11.33	\$11.69
	• one bedroom	\$13.88	\$14.23	\$14.44
	• two bedrooms	\$16.46	\$16.77	\$17.10
	• three or more bedrooms	\$19.04	\$19.46	\$19.42
	• Minimum Wage	\$9.50	\$10.25	\$10.25
	• Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Works (OW)	\$356	\$368	\$372
	• Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	\$454	\$469	\$474
	• Number of Rent Bank loans	346	320	244
<b>Rental Housing Availability</b>				
C-	• Number of households on Community Housing Waiting List	3,015	2,737 *	3,280**
	• one bedroom	1,531	1,278	1,738
	• two bedrooms	558	493	623
	• three or more bedrooms	926	966	919
	• Number of Community Housing units (completed)	10,034	10,188	10,314
	• Vacancy rate – private market rent units	3.3%	2.6%	1.7%
	• Number of private market rent units	31,205	31,561	31,427
* These numbers do not reflect less demand for affordable housing, which has remained fairly steady over the years, but rather are the result of a change in the software system used to manage the waitlist. ** These numbers do not reflect an increase in demand for affordable housing, which has remained fairly steady over the years, but rather are a result of a change in the software system used to manage the waitlist.				
<b>Supportive Housing</b>				
D+	• Number of housing spaces with support	1,453	1,533	1,561
	• Number of households waiting for long term support to maintain housing	1,153	1,218**	1,426
	• non-specific (general)	608	572	788
	• specific	545	731	1,426
** After the 2011 report card was printed, administrative changes were made to the program area. The final actual figure should have been 1,218 not the 1,378 that was originally printed.				
<b>OVERALL HOUSING STABILITY GRADE</b>				
C-	• MARGINAL WORSENING. • Need for housing and supports are growing faster than supply.			

Our Grades:    **A** = Significant Improvement                      **B** = Some Improvement                      **C** = No Improvement  
                      **D** = Some Worsening    **F** = Significant Worsening

For more information or to download a copy of the Report Card, the Report Card Booklet or the glossary, please visit our website at [www.hhug.ca](http://www.hhug.ca).

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