

FAQ HAMILTON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN

Everyone has a home...Home is the foundation



"Home is a place you choose, not somewhere you are forced to stay at out of necessity"

-Community roundtable participant

WHY A HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN?

Not everyone in Hamilton has a suitable and affordable home.

- 5,700 households are on the waiting list for social housing.
- In one year, approximately 5,653 individual men, women and children sleep in an emergency shelter in Hamilton.

• In 2006, 21% of renter households paid more than 50% of their income on shelter. To continue improving the lives of the people behind these numbers, the City of Hamilton is collaborating with the community to develop the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.

WHY NOW?

- Ontario's new Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy requires that municipalities develop comprehensive 10-year plans to address local affordable housing and homelessness needs.
- The implementation of the Housing and

Homeless Action Plan has been identified as a strategic objective within the City's 2012-2015 Strategic Plan. The Action Plan supports the City's strategic priority of providing a prosperous and healthy community for Hamilton's residents.

WHAT PREVIOUS PLANS HAS THE CITY OF HAMILTON DEVELOPED TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS NEEDS?

The two previous plans developed and implemented by the City of Hamilton are:

- *Keys to the Home: A Housing Strategy for Hamilton (2004)*
- *Everyone Has A Home, A Strategic Plan to*

Address Homelessness (2007).

These plans focused solely on either housing or homelessness, not both. Hamilton needs an updated plan to address both.

WHAT WILL THE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN DO?

The **Housing and Homelessness Action Plan** is a 10-year person-centred plan that will:

- identify short, medium and long-term priorities and strategies that address the full range of housing issues for households with lower incomes.
- define community outcomes and set targets.
- assign and monitor specific actions that the City can regularly measure.
- identify ongoing successes, challenges and opportunities to share with

community partners.

- include the full range of housing issues from homelessness to affordable homeownership, for example:
 - homelessness prevention
 - access to supports beyond just 'bricks and mortar'
 - availability of affordable housing
 - availability of emergency shelter arrangements.



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Hamilton's Affordable Housing Flagship is a voluntary group of government, labour, business and not-for profit sectors with a mandate to ensure that affordable housing contributes to a healthy and vibrant city.

WHO IS DEVELOPING THE PLAN, AND HOW?

- The City is responsible for planning and coordinating the range of services that deal with homelessness and affordable housing in our community. The City is leading the plan development using a collaborative approach.
- A multi-stakeholder Planning Group is guiding the plan development to ensure it is community-owned. The Planning Group represents a variety of collaborative groups and sectors involved in housing and homelessness.
- The Affordable Housing Flagship and the City are co-sponsoring the Planning Group.
- To include the voices of those who have experienced homelessness and unstable housing situations, input was gathered from over 800 people through surveys, focus groups, interviews and a stakeholder gathering.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR AND WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- **June 2012:** Hamilton's City Council endorsed in principle, Phase One of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan.
- Phase One of the Action Plan will also be presented to community stakeholders to determine how they can be involved in implementing the strategies.
- Together with the Planning Group and community stakeholders, The City will develop Phase Two – the implementation framework. This phase will provide details on the actions for each strategy, including cost, timing, how we are measuring our progress and the stakeholders who will be involved.
- **Early 2013:** The Provincial Government will receive a draft of Phases One and Two of the Action Plan for review. Following this, Hamilton City Council will receive the Action Plan for consideration and approval.

For more information:

Planning Group Co-Chair
Gillian Hendry, Director
 City of Hamilton, Housing Services Division
 (905) 546-2424 ext. 4818
HousingActionPlan@hamilton.ca
www.hamilton.ca/HousingActionPlan

Planning Group Co-Chair
Larry Huibers, Executive Director, Housing Help Centre
 Co-Chair, Affordable Housing Flagship
 (905) 526-8100
Larry@housinghelpcentre.ca

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