

# Side-by-Side Collaborative

*Improving **housing** and **services** for low-resourced pregnant women, parents, and their young children from birth to age 4.*



# Parent and Child experience:



# What has happened so far?

November 2023, Region of Waterloo Council endorses exploration of the Hub.



February 2024, the Side-by-Side Collaborative is created.



November 2024 – Feasibility Study completed and forwarded to Regional staff and Councillors.

The image features a central magnifying glass with a yellow handle and a blue lens. Inside the lens is a large white question mark. The background is a solid blue color with several white question marks of various sizes scattered around. There are also white dashed lines forming wavy patterns on the left side and a solid orange line curving upwards on the right side. The text "What we learned" is written in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image, partially overlapping the magnifying glass lens.

What we learned

# Safe and Affordable Housing

- + Single mothers and young children face the **highest poverty rates**
- + Best intervention **increases permanent housing supply**
- + **Stable housing** = healthier parents and children



# Parents

**Ensuring basic needs are met and improving life skills and mental health are critical**



**Children:  
Reaching, social, emotional  
and developmental milestones**

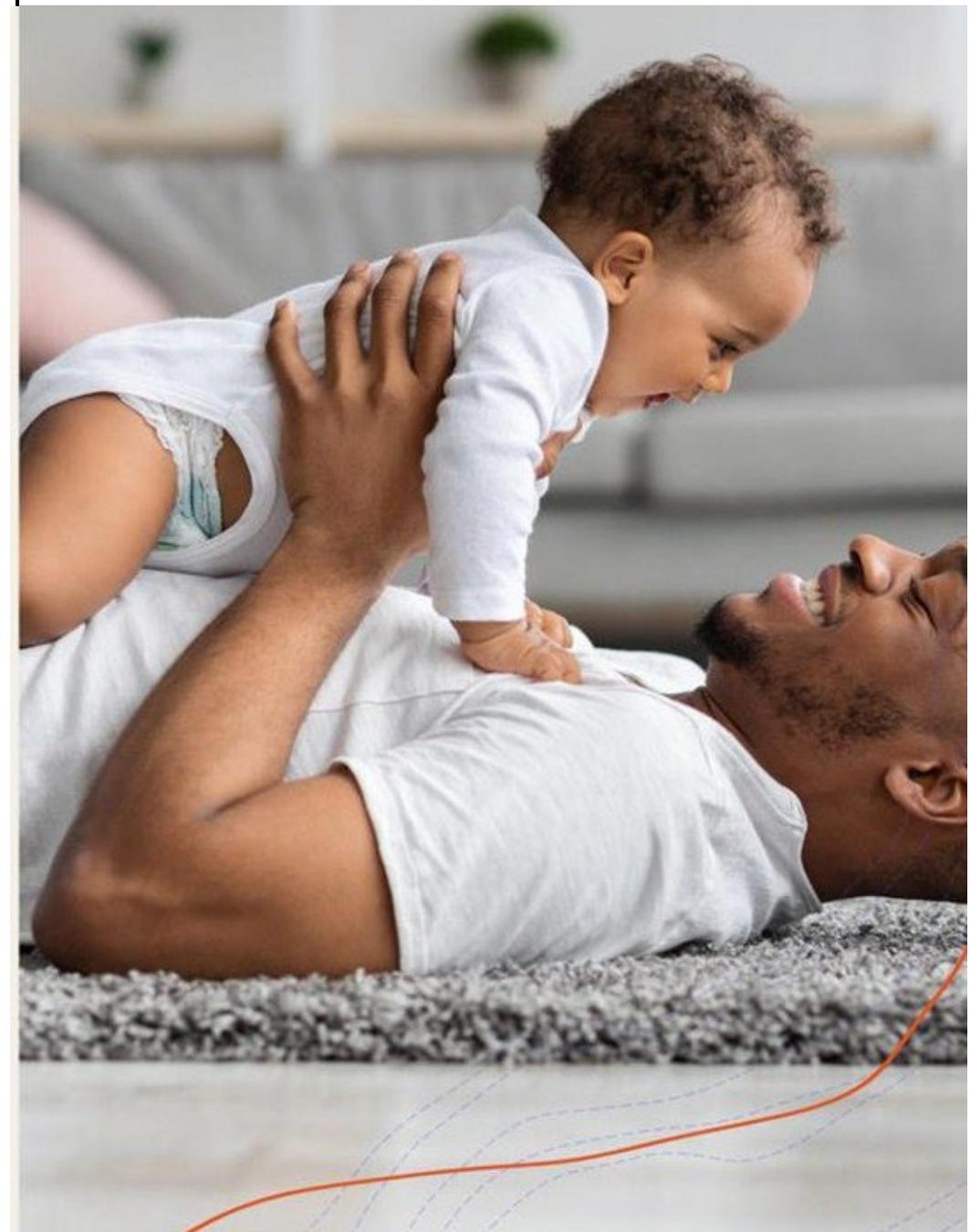
---

Children's experiences are  
intricately linked to parents

---

Helping parents helps  
children

---



A photograph of a woman with long blonde hair holding a baby who is laughing joyfully. The baby is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and grey pants. The woman is wearing a light grey sweater. In the background, a mobile with several small stuffed animals hangs from the ceiling. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent grey layer and white dashed wavy lines. A small blue plus sign is positioned between the words 'Our' and 'Recommended Model'.

# Our Recommended Model

# Scattered-site Housing Model

- + **33 Transitional** Housing units – in Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge.
- + **Permanent housing** for 20 families through new rental subsidies from the Region.
- + Minimum of **106 parents and children housed** and supported.



# A Path to a Better Life for Gina and Rose



- Transitional Shelter for Gina and her baby
- Support to work through complex challenges
- Support to create and achieve educational / employment goals
- Connection to Peer Support and Life Skills Training
- Hope for a future that allows for safe and affordable housing

# A sustainable model

Operating dollars under both models are similar.

HUB - endorsed by Council in November 2023 (serving 30 families)	Scattered Site Model (serving 53 families)
\$25-30 million, excluding land One site, unknown location	\$6-8 million to renovate multiple existing sites: Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo
Will take years to start and years to build	Starts now! Uses our existing assets to increase housing and service supply within 18 months.
Transitional/temporary housing	Provides both transitional and permanent housing options
Centralized in one location	Housing & services across Waterloo Region
Regional funding	Leverages diverse funding including MCCSS Provincial Funding