



Region of Waterloo

PECH Mid-Year Update

May 6, 2025

Context

The Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (PECH) is a multi-year plan to end chronic homelessness (functional zero) in Waterloo Region by 2030, endorsed by Council on April 9, 2023. This report provides an update on:

- Investment outputs in priority areas from the \$10.2M 2024 budget;
- Equity work underway by the PECH;
- Forthcoming data strategy and the impact of the PiT Count

Functional Zero

- The goal to end chronic homelessness through the PECH is to reach a state of **functional zero**
- Functional zero is **3 or less people experiencing chronic homelessness** indicating that homelessness is rendered rare and brief

PECH Co-Creators

- 125 individuals representing 65 organizations, community and grassroots groups
- Launching sub-groups focused on PECH priorities
- Current selection process underway for the PECH coordinating team to guide this work, expected to launch in mid-May




2024 Point-in-Time Count

- 2,371 individuals counted as experiencing homelessness
- 1,790 completed the Survey on Homelessness
- Of these 1,790, 78% reported experiencing chronic homelessness
- This data reaffirms local PECH priorities and projections of the positive impact of investment on housing outcomes

Current Priority Areas of the PECH

- Increasing equitable access across the housing stability system
- Reducing inflow to chronic homelessness through prevention efforts
- Increasing outflow from chronic homelessness to permanent housing outcomes
- Developing a data strategy to monitor the ongoing impacts of the PECH
 - PiT results reaffirm local PECH priorities

Specific Investment Outputs from \$10.2M

- Workforce stabilization/staffing and increased support for unsheltered homelessness
 - 20 emergency shelter beds for women and gender-diverse individuals in Cambridge
 - 6 spaces for 16- & 17- year olds experiencing homelessness
 - Support for 10 young single mothers and their children
 - Stabilization of 44 youth supportive housing units and youth shelter services
 - Stabilization of 10 addiction recovery beds
 - 151 rent supplements across urban and rural communities
 - 90 additional permanent housing outcomes for people on PATHS with the most complex needs
 - Stabilization of 198 fixed-site permanent supportive housing including dedicated spaces for women and seniors
 - Stabilization of eviction prevention programs
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Additional Equity Focused Efforts

- YWCA Cambridge & 84 Frederick (SHIP)- 67 emergency shelter spaces for women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse individuals
- CMW- transitional housing for racialized women and children
- 151 rent subsidies in collaboration with 27 organizations
- Gender and geography responsive Winter Warming
- Guaranteed equity leadership on PECH coordinating team
- Continuing work to amplify lived expertise for systems change



Inflow/Active/Outflow - Why It Matters

- Funding Strategy included projections of how investments reduce inflow and encourage outflow are a path towards functional zero
- Historically the H&SH budget was primarily spent on active homelessness
- Investing more heavily in prevention (inflow) and housing outcomes (outflow) is critical to reaching functional zero



Integrating Housing Plans Across the Continuum



What Comes Next

- PECH Data Strategy to monitor impact in three key areas:
 - Are we getting closer to functional zero?
 - In what ways can we focus investment to create a more equitable, accessible housing stability system?
 - How might we measure systems change as part of this work?
- Continue to work towards a more equitable, accessible housing stability system
- All of Community Coordinating Team
- Updated inflow/active/outflow projections and expenditures for 2025 and beyond