

The Plan to end Chronic Homelessness

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Chronic homelessness

What is chronic homelessness?

- A total of at least six months of homelessness over the past year
- Recurrent experiences of homelessness over the past three years, with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months

According to our data, **558 people** are currently experiencing chronic homelessness in Waterloo Region.

The next PiT count will take place in **fall 2024**.

Functional zero by 2030

“Functional zero” is achieved when:

- three or less people experience homelessness over three or more months
- in a system that is tracked closely with data.

It means that we are able to prevent homelessness whenever possible and ensure that when homelessness does occur, it is rare, brief and one-time.



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Strategic priorities and actions

- Create policy and system accountability
- Centre community voices
- Build system bridges
- Advance equitable housing
- Focus on preventing homelessness
- Change the narrative on housing and homelessness
- Advocate and collaborate for broader change

Co-creator membership

- ACCKWA – Housing stability outreach Cambridge
- Argus
- Compass Refugee Centre
- Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
- Cambridge Shelter Corp
- Camino Wellbeing & Mental Health
- Cambridge and North Dumfries Ontario Health Team
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Coalition of Muslim Women
- Community Care Concepts
- Community Healthcaring KW
- Community Justice Initiatives
- Developmental Services Ontario
- Developmental Services Planning & Advisory Council
- Eviction Prevention (Social Development Centre)
- Healing of the Seven Generations
- House of Friendship
- Immigration Partnership
- Indwell
- KW Multicultural Centre
- KW Urban Native Wigwam Project
- Lutherwood (PATHS)
- Marillac Place Women’s Shelter
- oneROOF Youth Services
- Porchlight Counselling and Addiction Services
- Probation and Parole
- Ray of Hope
- Region of Waterloo – Community Services
- Region of Waterloo – Public Health
- Sanguen Health Centre
- Safe Haven Lutherwood Youth Shelter
- Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP)
- Social Development Centre Waterloo Region
- Sunbeam Community & Developmental Services
- Somali Canadian Association of Waterloo Region
- The Working Centre
- The Rural Upstream Collaborative – Engage Rural
- Traverse Independence
- Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy
- YWCA – Cambridge
- YWCA – Kitchener Waterloo
- Dr. Brian Doucet, University of Waterloo
- Dr. Erin Dej, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Dr. Laura Pin, Wilfrid Laurier University

Community partners who support the Plan

- Langs
- Supportive Housing of Waterloo

Community voices

Marjorie Knight

Jennifer Gordon

System transformation

- Current system is not designed or adequately resourced to address the **increase in number of individuals** who require support or the **complexity of needs**.
- Shift away from reactive, emergency-based response to prevention through upstream supports and to more affordable homes built.

Housing First and Human Rights

Waterloo Region was one of the first communities in Canada to start using Housing First philosophies and strategies in 2007.

Locally, our Housing First Supportive Housing programs are more than **99 percent effective** at keeping people housed.

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights lists the fundamental human rights to be universally protected. This includes the right to housing.

Current funding

The Region of Waterloo has directed unprecedented investments towards programs, supports and capital projects to meet community need.

In 2024, the Region will **invest more than \$245 million** into Affordable Housing and Homelessness, from all sources.

Of this, 23 per cent is directed to homelessness and supportive housing programs amounting to **\$56 million this year.**

Investment plan and advocacy

This is a shared community challenge that is not to be owned or solved by one order of government alone.

We will develop an advocacy strategy to engage other levels of government, sectors, public and private sector partners to address the significant investment required to address this escalating challenge.

**In community,
by community,
for community.**

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#ThePlanWR