

2015

Windsor Essex Annual Report

TO THE COMMUNITY ON THE 10 YEAR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PLAN





Cherniak Manor

We are pleased to provide you with the second Annual Report to the Community on the Windsor Essex 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Earlier this year, Medicine Hat Alberta announced it had reached “functional zero” in its goal to end chronic homelessness. This alone proves that ending homelessness is within reach for communities and Windsor Essex continues to strive and work to meet this goal.

2015 was a year of change in Windsor Essex that included the addition of a Housing First program and an increase in collaboration and communication. This combined, has had a positive impact for those who access the supports and services offered.

What is the plan’s vision?

Windsor Essex is an inclusive community where everyone has a safe, affordable, accessible and quality home and everyone lives where they can actively participate.

How are we doing?

The 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Plan requires 63 strategies be implemented by December 31, 2024. The implementation plan required 29 of 63 strategies be implemented by December 31, 2015.

We are pleased to report that we have exceeded the original target and 30 strategies were completed or were in process by December 31, 2015.



Goal #1: ACCESS

Provide simple, coordinated and consistent access to programs, services and supports that act on what is important to the person receiving services.

Strategies:

- o Increased collaboration with the health sector and in planning stages to increase coordination of supports to assist persons to remain housed.
- o Implemented coordinated access and common intake with triaging to appropriate services.



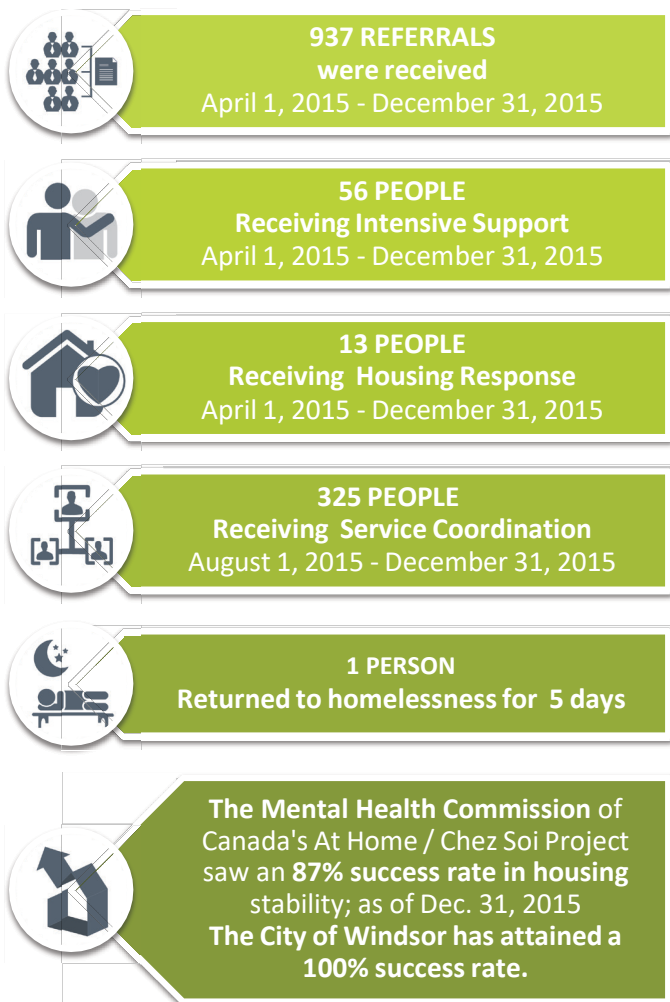
Goal #2: PERSON CENTERED SUPPORTS

Have supports available when needed, to act on what is important to the person receiving services, to assist the person in succeeding in their preferred housing.

Strategies:

- o Windsor Essex Housing Connections is a Housing First Initiative in Windsor Essex. The Housing First model was based on the Mental Health Commission of Canada's definition of Housing First which is a consumer-driven approach that provides **immediate access to permanent housing**, in addition to **flexible, community-based services** for people who have experienced homelessness. The goal of Housing First is to end chronic homelessness by providing **immediate housing** and then working with participants to **promote recovery** and wellbeing.
- o Implementation of an Aboriginal Housing Support Worker through Can Am Indian Friendship Centre.

Statistics List:



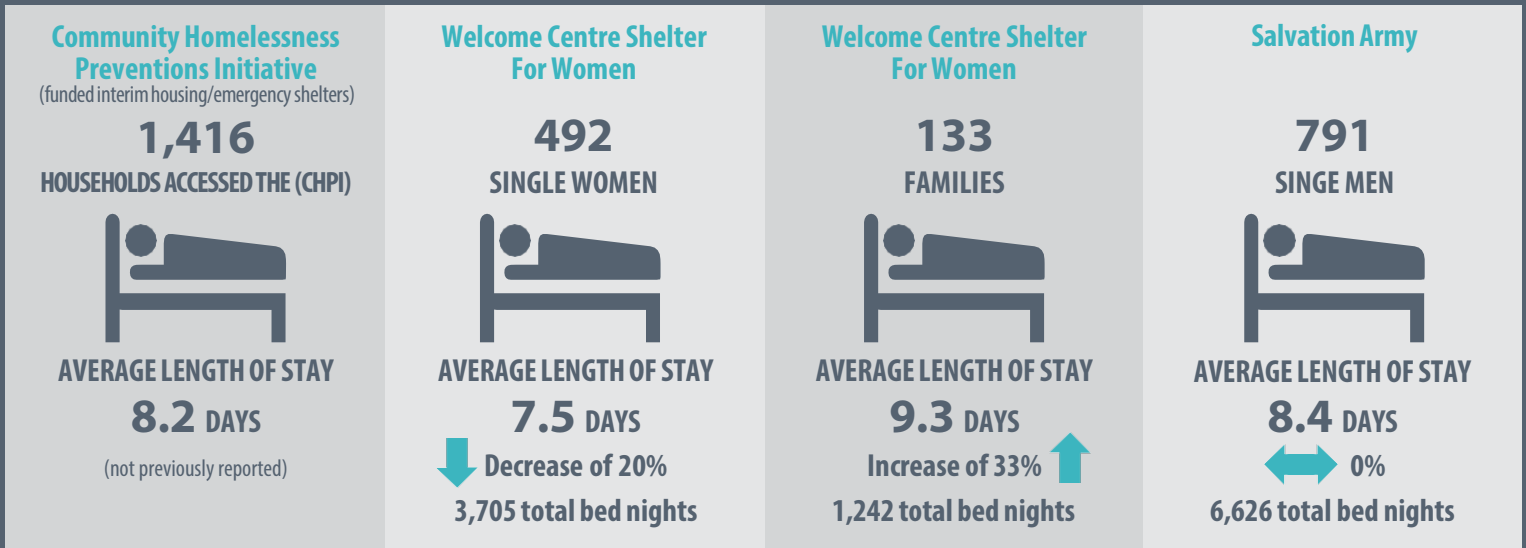
Voluntary Trusteeship Program

The Trustee Program was created to assist people with managing their finances. It is completely voluntary, meaning that it is the person's choice to decide to participate and there is no charge for utilizing the service.



Goal #3: INTERIM HOUSING (formerly The Emergency Shelter Program)

Have temporary housing, meant to bridge the gap between homelessness and permanent housing, available where appropriate and where needed.

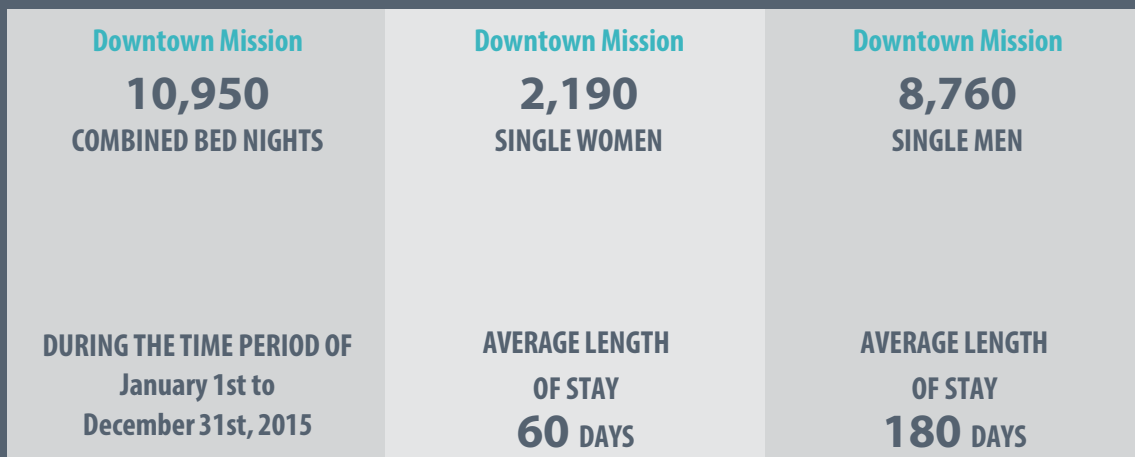


Strategies:

As of April 1, 2015 we moved from a per diem model to a block funding model for interim housing and staff resources were increased in shelters to support the Windsor Essex Housing Connection Housing First model.

DOWNTOWN MISSION:

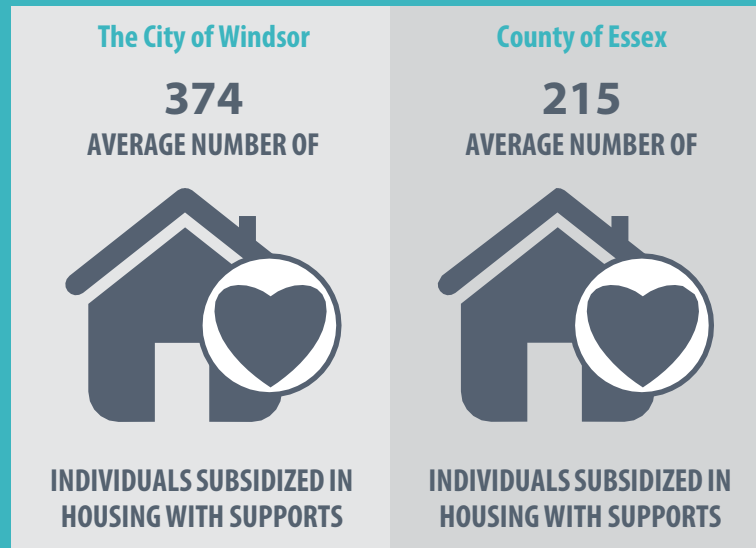
It is recognized that although the Downtown Mission is not funded through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) they are an important part of the homelessness service system. We are providing these numbers to the community to provide a comprehensive picture of homelessness in Windsor Essex.



**The above data has been obtained from and used with the permission of the Downtown Mission.

Goal #4: HOUSING LINKED WITH SUPPORTS

Have housing linked with a comprehensive and coordinated package of services and programs to assist a wide range of individuals with support needs in maintaining their housing.



There are currently 12 subsidized Housing with Support Homes in The City of Windsor and 12 subsidized Housing with Support Homes in the County of Essex.

Goal #5: RENTAL HOUSING

Have a full range of rental housing that offers safe, accessible and quality accommodations.



Strategies:

- o An additional 10 affordable rental units created through Investment in Affordable Housing (Extension) Capital Program, for a total of 33 affordable rental units created since 2014.
- o Implementation of Landlord Developers to assist with seeking and securing affordable housing units in Windsor and Essex County.
- o 50 housing allowances allocated.



Goal #6: OWNERSHIP HOUSING

Have a full range of ownership housing that offers safe, accessible and quality accommodations.

Strategies:

- o 2 Homeownership Downpayment Assistance - Habitat for Humanity Homes
- o 27 Ontario Renovates - Homeowners (25 City / 2 County)

Goal #7: MONITORING, REPORTING AND EVALUATION

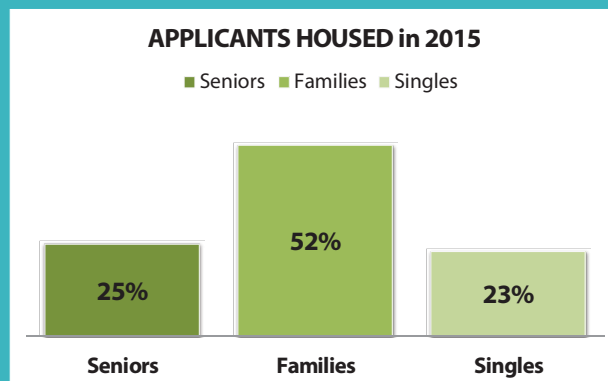
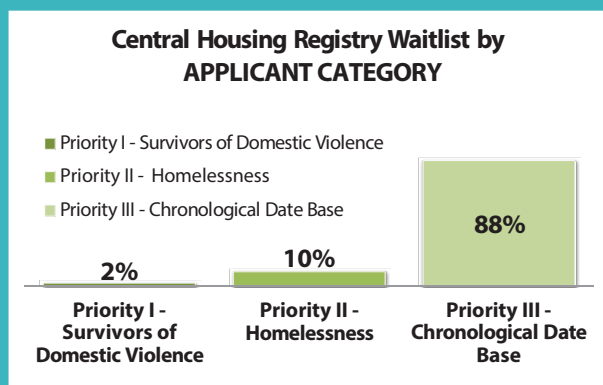
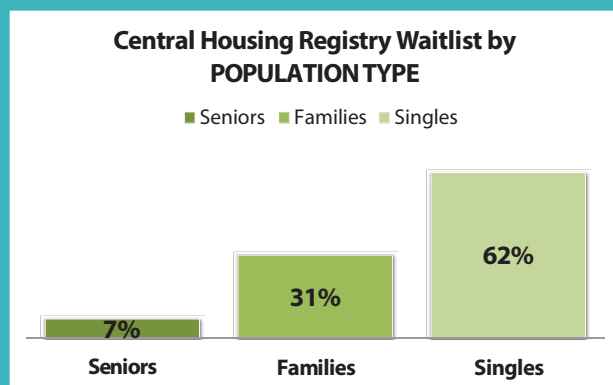
Under the leadership of the Housing Advisory Committee, measure and report on progress, evaluate success and invest in continuous improvement of the housing and homelessness system.

Strategies:

- o Developed the Windsor-Essex Housing Connections Advisory Committee that is comprised of community partners to support the ongoing implementation of the Housing First Program.
- o Report to the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) quarterly on the progress and outcomes of the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan and affiliated programs.

CENTRAL HOUSING REGISTRY WAITLIST:

2,934 Total number of eligible applicants on the Central Housing Registry waitlist for social and affordable housing as of December 31, 2015.



618 Total number of applicants housed as of December 31, 2015.

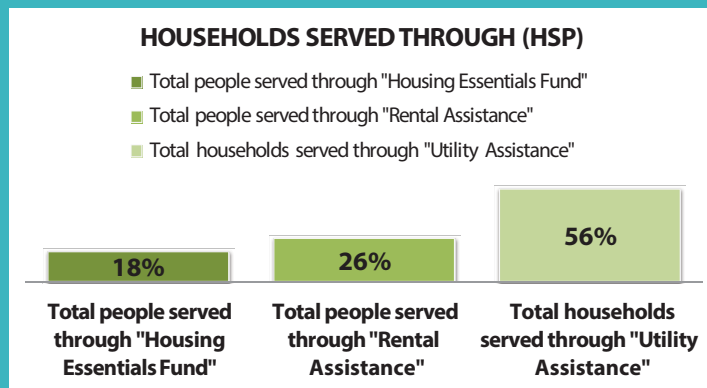
26.5% ↓ Decrease from 2014.

HOUSING STABILITY PLAN (HSP):

The Housing Stability Plan assists qualifying households to obtain and retain housing with the following:



A) Housing Essentials Fund B) Rental Assistance C) Utility Assistance



2,210 Total households served through HSP funded programs in 2015.

45.5% ↓ Decrease from 2014.

INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING (IAH):

The Federal and Provincial governments partnered to fund the Investment in Affordable Housing Program. The five components of the (IAH) Program are as follows:

RENTAL HOUSING
A capital component intended to provide affordable rental housing units.

HOMEOWNERSHIP
A downpayment assistance component intended to assist eligible households to purchase a home.

ONTARIO RENOVATES
A component to assist eligible homeowners and landlords with renovation & rehabilitation projects.

RENT SUPPLEMENT / HOUSING ALLOWANCE
A program component intended to provide a monthly amount to reduce market rent for eligible households.

THE CITY OF WINDSOR has made investments in the following areas during 2015:

2 Homeownership Downpayment Assistance - Habitat for Humanity Homes

27 Ontario Renovates - Homeowners (25 City / 2 County)

2015 ONTARIO RENOVATES Multi Residential Rental Unit Rehabilitation Pilot Program.
1 Application Approved.
\$5,000 Grant for 1 unit.

2015 Fire Sprinkler System Loan Program.
Total homes with supports funded:
5 (4 City / 1 County)

50 HOUSING ALLOWANCES ALLOCATED



HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY (HPS):

- o Application for funding submitted to complete a coordinated 'Point in Time Count' (PiTC)
- o HPS Annual Community Plan Update 2015-2016 was completed in partnership with the Community Advisory Board to reflect funding commitments through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and current profile of homelessness services and supports offered throughout Windsor Essex.

LONG TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY - RENEWAL:

- o In June 2015 Housing Services facilitated a consultation with over 100 stakeholders to provide the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing with feedback to inform the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) Renewal document.



WHAT IS HOME?

Family

Love & Family

Friends, Support & Love

Place to be myself

Sense of belonging

Permanent place to live

Comfortable

Peace

Inviolable

Security

Stability

Safety

Safe

Safe Place

A place you can feel safe.

A safe place to sleep.

Home is everything. Home is life.

Home is where everything begins.

A place where I can lock everyone out and it's all about me.

A spiritual fulfillment & unconditional love & acceptance.

* Responses are from Housing First participants.

Looking ahead...coming in 2016

- o Participation in Point in Time Count
- o Participation in CAEH 20K Homes Campaign
- o Develop Housing with Supports program framework
- o Regeneration Study of the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation social housing stock
- o Delivery of new and enhanced Federal and Provincial housing program initiatives
- o Evaluation of the Housing First model in collaboration with the University of Windsor
- o Fidelity Assessment by Mental Health Commission of Canada
- o Update the Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan
- o Continue to collaborate with Health funded partners



Thank You

We would like to thank our community partners both old and new for their patience, innovation, collaboration, commitment and understanding as we travel new paths and explore opportunities to benefit those in Windsor Essex. To sum it up "I don't know where I would be without these programs, I've waited for something like this for so long".

Housing First Participant

