

Housing & Homelessness Action Plan Phase 1

Presentation to Emergency &
Community Services Committee

June 11, 2012



Hamilton
Community Services



***Everyone has a home...
home is the foundation***



Why a Housing & Homelessness Action Plan?

- Not everyone in Hamilton has a home
- Province requires municipalities to create 10 year plans
- Existing Plans need updating
- Build partnerships and proactively plan for funding opportunities



The Action Plan will:

- Be a 10 year, solution focused, person-centered plan
- Be broad in scope – from homelessness to affordable homeownership (and everything in between)
- Define community outcomes, strategies and measure progress
- Guide for decision making
- Build on our assets and existing good work

Action Plan Alignment with Key City Initiatives

- City of Hamilton 2012-2015 Strategic Plan
- Human Services Planning Initiative
- Neighbourhood Development Strategy
- Urban Hamilton Official Plan



Broader Benefits of an Action Plan

- Positive social and health outcomes
- Contributes to healthy neighbourhoods
- Economic stimulus
- Public cost savings in areas like police services and EMS



Action Plan Process

Housing & Homelessness Planning Group

- Partnership between City and the Affordable Housing Flagship
- Key sector representation
- Advice/guidance on developing the Plan



Action Plan Process

Community Engagement

- 8 Citizen Advisory Committees to Council
- 22 Community Roundtable Discussions
- 7 Interviews with City Councillors
- 470 Surveys in 9 Public Spaces
- Community Check In Event attracted 120 people



Action Plan Development

Two-Phased Approach

Phase One: Strategic Plan

(June 2012)

- Aspiration
- 7 Core Values
- 5 Broad Outcomes
- 54 Strategies

Phase Two: Implementation Framework

(Q1 2013)

- Align actions with strategies
- Determine accountable stakeholders for actions
- Identify timelines and costs
- Monitor, report, evaluate



Outcome Area 1: More affordable housing is available

- We need 377 new *affordable* rental units annually to meet projected growth
- Almost no “purpose built” rental housing is being created

“We need more affordable housing.”

- community roundtable participant



Outcome Area 2: More people can afford their housing, and have greater stability and choice

- 1 in 5 renter households pay more than 50% of their income on rent
- 18% of people live in poverty

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

- community roundtable participant



Outcome Area 3: People have the supports they need to help them obtain and maintain housing

- About 400 men, women & children stay in an emergency shelter nightly

“People are on waiting lists for extended periods of time. Give support to these people while they are on the list.”

- community roundtable participant



Outcome Area 4: People live in housing that is good quality, safe and suitable to their needs

- 15% of households are in core housing need with affordability, quality or suitability housing problems

“We need to feel safe where we live- we don’t feel safe right now.”

- community roundtable participant



Outcome Area 5: People receive respectful, quality service and experience equity in housing

- In roundtable discussions, we heard people acknowledge that they sent a “white” friend to apply for an apartment, so as not to get turned down because of their ethnicity


“If you don’t know the questions to ask, it’s hard to find the service”

- community roundtable participant



Next Steps

- Endorsement of Phase 1
- Direction to start Phase 2 implementation framework
- Continue to collaborate with community stakeholders - develop implementation work groups
- Action Plan Phase 1 and 2 to Province early 2012 for comment
- Action Plan Phase 1 and 2 to Council for approval Spring 2013



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Thank You
Questions?



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