

Food and Shelter Advisory Committee 2014 Milestones Presentation

**To Emergency and Community Services
September 8, 2014**

Presentation Overview

- ▶ Remind you of FSAC's mandate
- ▶ Share Community Food and Shelter related data trends
- ▶ Describe FSAC's interests and activities in 2014
- ▶ Provide future considerations

Why Does Food and Shelter Advisory Committee Exist?

- ▶ People in Hamilton are still experiencing hunger and homelessness:

	2013	2012	2011	2010
Total Number of People Accessing a Food Bank*	17,069	17,924	18,432	18,600
Total Number of People staying in a Shelter (non Violence Against Women)**	3,120	3,287	3,304	3,680

** Source: City of Hamilton, Homeless Individuals and Families Information System 2010-2013

- ▶ According to the 2006 census, one in five Hamilton households pay more than half of their income on housing (putting them at risk of homelessness)

FSAC Mandate

- ▶ Identify the urgent needs to citizens for whom barriers exist to obtaining income security, sufficient nutritious food, and access to safe and affordable shelter, with adequate supports.
- ▶ Provide information regarding urgent community needs and recommendations toward their resolution to the Emergency and Community Services Committee.

FSAC Mandate

- ▶ Where appropriate, agency members will take immediate and specialized action to address these issues.
- ▶ Provide an opportunity for FSAC members to liaise and collaborate with other levels of government, other committees, citizens, and agencies regarding responses and recommendations for emergency food supports and shelter needs.

FSAC's Interests for 2014

- ▶ Responding to emergent community issues including:
 - ✓ Hamilton Food Strategy
 - ✓ Housing Stability Benefit
 - ✓ Women's Homelessness
 - ✓ Housing Supports
 - ✓ Social Housing Capital

- ▶ Supporting the ongoing advocacy effort to senior government for fair and adequate funding for Hamilton

FSAC's Interests for 2014

- ▶ Consultation on the implementation of Hamilton's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- ▶ Monitor and support positive initiatives for Hamilton in Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy

FSAC – 2014 Activities

- ▶ Consulted on the Housing Stability Benefit, Community food programs and the Community Partnership Program
- ▶ Representation from Public Health
- ▶ Liaised with other citizen advisory committees

FSAC – 2014 Acknowledgments

- ▶ Councillor Merulla's leadership on the Food and Shelter Committee
- ▶ Endorsement of Hamilton's 10 year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- ▶ Continued food bank support through one-time funding in 2014
- ▶ Leadership and commitment around addressing women's homelessness crisis
- ▶ Investments in Housing Supports and Capital through reserve funding

FSAC – Future Considerations

- ▶ Hamilton Food Strategy
- ▶ Long term sustainable investments from senior levels of government
- ▶ Long term sustainable solutions for Women's housing and homelessness
- ▶ Long term sustainable investments to help implement Housing and Homelessness Action plan

Any questions?