



# HARMONIZING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBSIDY PROGRAMS

Emergency and Community Services Committee  
August 12, 2021

# Low Income Subsidy Programs



Affordable  
Transit Pass



Housing  
Stability  
Benefit

**Snow  
Angels**  
THE NEIGHBOURLY THING TO DO.

Recreation  
Assistance Program



*Special  
Supports*

Low Income  
Benefits

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# Low Income Measure (LIM)

- LIM is calculated *annually* by Statistics Canada for *specific census areas* (including Hamilton)
- A household is considered low income if its income is below 50% of *median* incomes for similarly sized households
- LIM is considered a better measure than LICO (Low Income Cut Off) by statisticians and policy experts

# Financial Impact

- Any financial impact in 2021 will be absorbed in Divisional surplus (Dept. surplus if necessary)
- Any additional cost required to provide this service in 2022, will be included in the Tax Operating Budget process for Council deliberation and approval

# Benefits for Hamilton Residents

- Programs will have a clear and consistent financial threshold for low-income benefits
- Prevents minor increases in fixed incomes from causing residents to lose a benefit
- Enables the potential for streamlining of the application process for residents



# QUESTIONS?