



HAMILTON'S HOMELESSNESS ENDING STRATEGY

Emergency and Community Services
Committee Meeting
December 9, 2021



HAMILTON REGION

Concern over ‘escalating’ domestic violence halts Hamilton’s hotel program for homeless couples

Our Journey to End Homelessness

By March 2022,
Coordinated Access
Governance, Policies,
Practice

Integrated homeless-
serving system that
connects people to
the right resources at
the right time

Shared accountability
and capacity to
quickly identify and
solve individuals'
experience of
homelessness

Reduce overall
homelessness
annually by 5%

Reduce inflow
by 10%

Less than 15%
return to
homelessness

End chronic
homelessness
by 2025

Indigenous Community Entity and City Collaboration

Leadership

Coordinated Access Policies & Governance
Formal CHIL and/or Indigenous membership in
internal and external committees, boards,
Encampment Response Team
Regular meetings at Director, Manager, and
Analyst levels on investments, planning, and
service delivery



Funding

20% federal homelessness funding since
2004
Indigenous Led Poverty Reduction Fund
Provincial project funding
Minimum 20% of housing affordability
resources (Rent Ready, Housing
Allowances, etc.)



Data

Indigenous-led collection,
interpretation, reporting
Point-in-Time Magnet Events
Collaborating with Indigenous
leadership to decolonize and
indigenize Indigenous-specific data
policies and practices to support and
enhance Indigenous community
autonomy

Building Our Collective Strategy



Collaborative Policy



- 2013 – Housing & Homelessness Action Plan
- 2015 – Contribution to Provincial Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness
- 2016 – one of 6 communities invited to join 20,000 Homes Campaign
- 2017-18 – contributed to Federal Homelessness Advisory Committee
- 2018 – Joined Built for Zero
- 2019 – Systems Planning Framework
- Deep ongoing community engagement



Innovation



- Local leadership & innovation recognized nationally
- Three long-standing system planning tables: Men's Emergency Services Committee (MESC), Women's Homelessness Planning Committee (WHPC), and Street Youth Planning Collaborative (SYPC)
- Community engaged research and planning advancing policy and program innovation



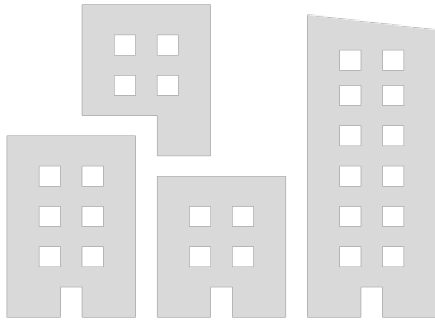
Housing First



- Rights-based and evidence-driven philosophy and intervention, includes: rapid housing with supports, client choice, separating housing from treatment, tenant rights and responsibilities, integration with community, person-centred goals and self-sufficiency
- First community in Canada with a Housing First program (Wesley)
- Endaayaang Housing First for Indigenous Youth Demonstration Project
- Housing First for Youth (SYPC)

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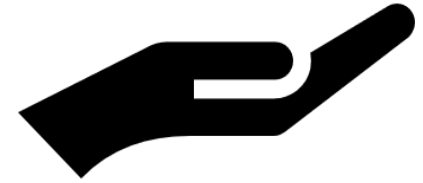
A Hamilton Where Everyone Has a Home



Accelerating building of community housing units and bringing units back online to maintain & increase **supply of affordable housing**



Managing **Access to Housing** through preservation of units and housing subsidy **to get and keep people housed**



Investment and leadership of Coordinated Access to an integrated homeless-serving **system of supports grounded in Housing First**

The Complex Causes of Homelessness

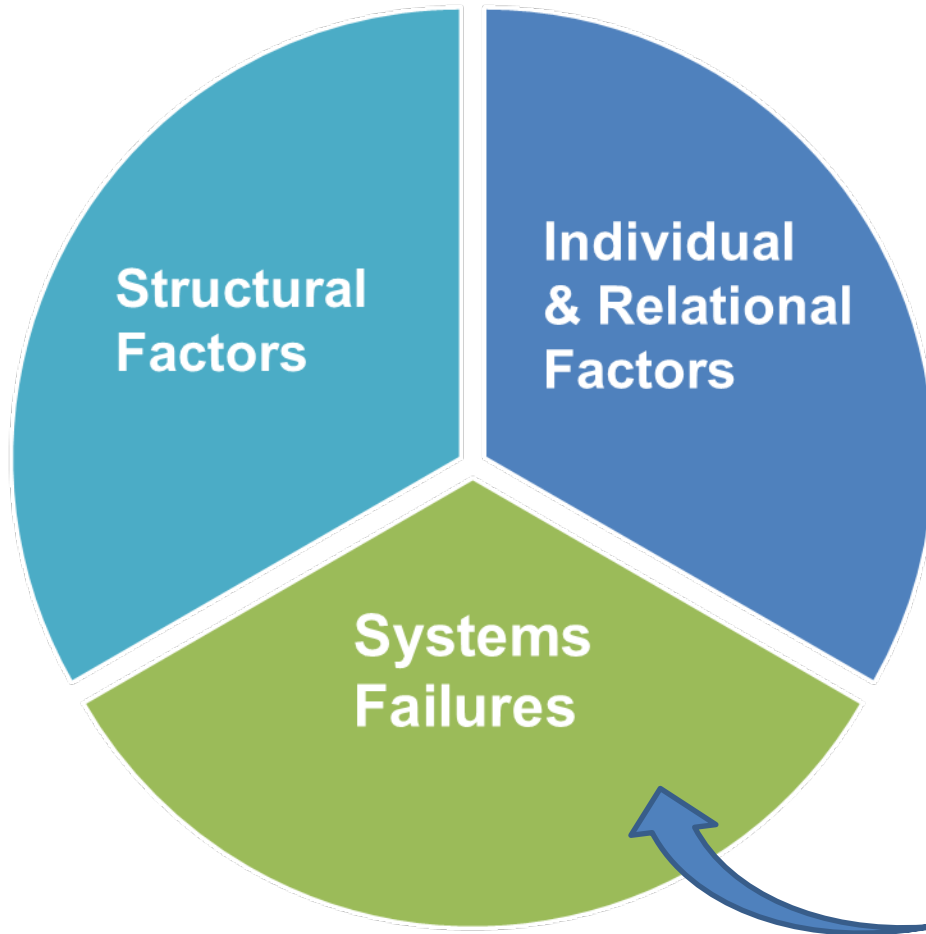


Source: Causes of Homelessness,
Homeless Hub

An End to Homelessness

The only known solution to homelessness is **housing**.

Our role is in building a community-based response focused on ending homelessness



Coordinated Access is Key to Success

In Helping Individuals End Their Experience of Homelessness



Serving People Who Are Experiencing Homelessness

Shared accountability for end each individual's experience of homelessness:

1. Unsheltered (sleeping outside, in vehicle, etc)
2. Emergency Sheltered
3. Temporarily Sheltered (couch surfing, motel, etc.).



Common Assessment - Every Door is the Right One

Through Common Assessment agencies assess and triage individuals' needs and preferences using VI-SPDAT to connect them with a community of resources.



The By Name List

real-time data helps community partners know every person experiencing homelessness by name (with their consent), understand their unique needs, to then prioritize them for the most appropriate and available housing supports.

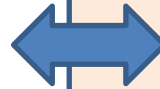


Prioritization and Referral to right-match

dedicated support and housing resources as they become available, prioritized to meet an individual or family's depth of need.

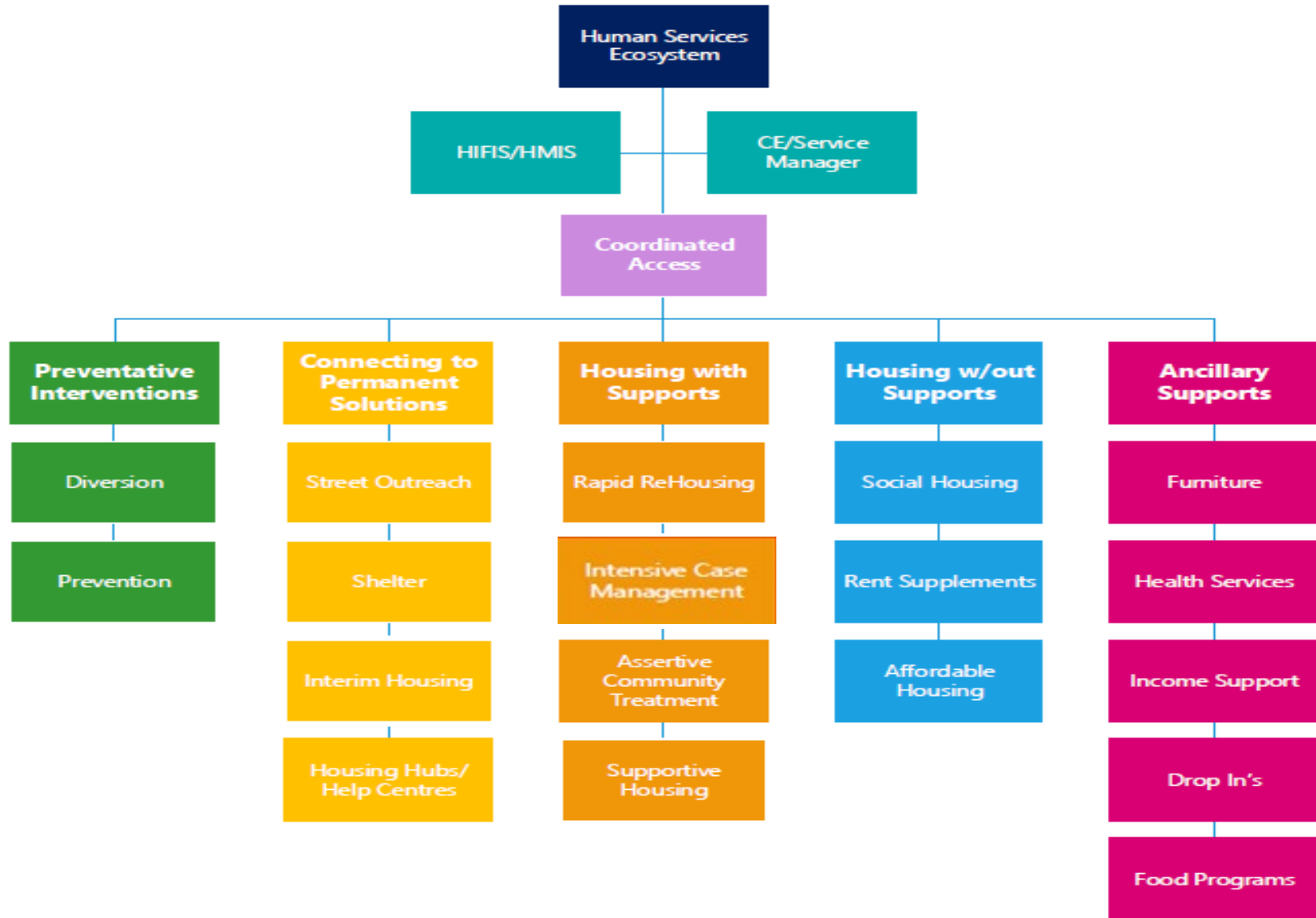
Homeless Management Information System

- **HIFIS (Homeless Individual and Family Information System) is the client database used in the Homelessness Serving System**
- Data-sharing protocol and shared consent with additional protections through permissions & audits
- All client information is recorded in here including intake forms, consent, triage assessments, and case management notes
- Key HIFIS functions include: creating and/or updating HIFIS profiles, documenting admissions, sharing bed availability, indicating service restrictions, and internal communications
- Information in HIFIS helps support implementation of a dynamic By-Name List (BNL)

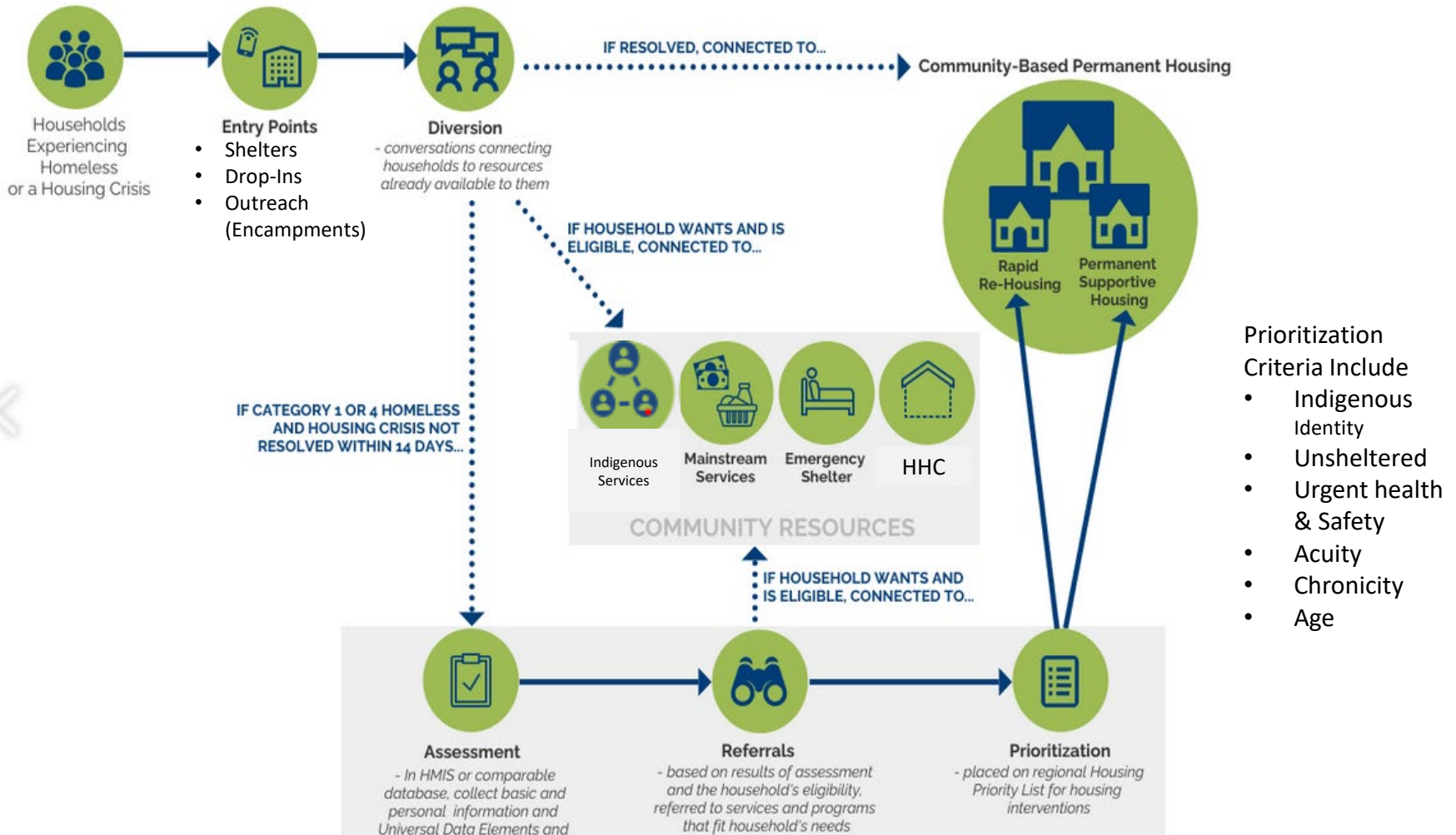


- **The By-Name List (BNL) Is a real-time list of everyone known to be homeless in the community who has provided consent**
- The BNL includes information such as: HIFIS ID, VI-SPDAT scores (representing level of acuity), age, and duration of homelessness, Indigenous status, program activity
- The BNL is used to create a By-Name Priority List to prioritize & match people to specific housing resources
- The BNL is used to measure inflow (people new or returning to homelessness) and outflow (people moving from homelessness to housing, or inactive)
- It helps us keep track of everyone who is currently accessing the homelessness serving system

Components of Our Homelessness Ending System



Coordinating Access & Exits from the Homelessness System



COVID-19 Impacts on Homeless-Serving System

Significant redirection of resources from long-term coordinated homelessness strategy to emergency response

Intensification of structural drivers of homelessness

- Housing unaffordability
- Loss of community housing stock
- Scarcity/low vacancy
- Income loss

Gap between demand for and supply of affordable housing continues to grow

- Population with high vulnerability and risk of health complications
- Expansion of Emergency Services (First Ontario Centre, Hotels, Cathedral, Emma's Place, Drop-ins)
- Creation of Isolation Centres and Services
- Testing
- Vaccine Roll-Out
- Encampments
- Agency Staffing Pressures
- Mental Health & Addictions
- Community Polarization

Even during pandemic pressures, from January 2020 through September 2021, 485 households representing more than 1,000 individuals moved from homelessness to housing

Long-term Homelessness Ending Strategy Balanced with Responding to Immediate Needs

Emergency Response

- Temporary shelter & hotel expansion
- Extension of Drop-ins
- Housing-focused street outreach
- Progressive engagement
- Expansion of women's shelter services
- Encampment Response Working Group to address immediate health needs while coordinating housing solutions
- Coordination of intake and assessment to support housing placements

Coordinated Access System

- Formalize streamlined, community aligned processes for assessing need and linking people to immediate/interim and long-term housing solutions
- Prioritization (1 in 3) people offered intensive housing resources from unsheltered population
- 90 days of Action to formalize new model of case conferencing to right-match people to supports
- Formalization of health partnerships & integration of supports

Long-term Housing Solutions

- Partnerships and proposal to secure 100 units of permanent low barrier housing for people with high acuity
- Coordinating investments in affordable housing (49 units through RHI) and housing subsidies (693 municipal housing allowances; 246 Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit subsidies)
- Partnerships with housing providers and landlords to house people from By-Name List and Access to Housing

STRATEGIES FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS

CAN WE MOVE FROM THIS...



...TO THIS!





Hamilton

QUESTIONS?