



Agenda Item: 8.1
Report No.: HSC23012(a)

Annual Winter Response (HSC23012(a)) (City Wide)

Emergency and Community Services
September 7, 2023

Context

- The City of Hamilton does not currently have a comprehensive winter response strategy to serve those who are unhoused
- Current winter response within homelessness does not include expanded overnight drop-in warming spaces because people were previously accommodated within emergency shelter overflow spaces. These are no longer available
- Two drop-in spaces (one overnight, and one daytime) rely on short-term annual funding, and one major provider of daytime drop-in ceased services this year

Context

- Year-round drop-ins would maintain daytime services while offering a mechanism to scale-up and be expanded for overnight hours that serve as low-barrier warming spaces during winter months, from December 1 to March 31
- Opportunities to leverage partnerships through recreation centres, the Central Public Library
- Potential to expand geographic access by implementing a mobile warming bus

Proposed Solutions

Annualized Funding for Housing-Focused Drop-In Programs

- Annualized funding for Willow's Place (22 daytime spaces)
- Annualized funding for Carol Anne's Place (22 overnight spaces)
- 100 new spaces for daytime and overnight drop-in

Extending Existing Community Supports

- Extended operating hours at designated rec centres
- Extended operating hours at Hamilton Public Library Central location
- Overnight warming bus through Hamilton Transit



Immediate Opportunities To Help People

Recommendations	2024 Annualized \$5.3M	Outcome
Mission Services – Willow’s Place	\$654K	22 spaces 7 days per week 9am – 8:30 pm, staff and programing on site
YWCA Carol Anne’s Place	\$965K	22 spaces 7 days per week 10pm – 8am, staff and programing on site, staff on site
New Drop In Spaces	\$3.5M	100 Drop-in Spaces, Nightly Drop-in December 1 – March 31, staff and programing on site
Recreation Centres	\$104K	3 recreation centres 7 days per week from opening to 11:30 pm December 1 – March 31
Hamilton Public Library – Central Location	\$10K	15 spaces, open December 1 - March 31 including statutory holidays from 1pm – 5pm December 1 – March 31
Hamilton Transit	\$218K	1 x 40 ft HSR bus, 20 spaces, set route pattern, operates nightly 10pm – 6am December 1 – Mar 31



Hamilton

QUESTIONS?