



Agenda Item: 8.3
Report No.: HSC23041

Addressing Needs of Unsheltered Individuals and those relying on Hamilton's Emergency Shelter System (HSC23041) (City Wide)

General Issues Committee August 14, 2023

Issue/Extent of Need

Current State

- Since 2020, the total number of people experiencing homelessness has increased and shelters have remained at or over capacity, especially in the women's and family shelter systems
- As of June 2023, 1723 individuals were known to have connected with the homeless-serving system in the three months prior
 - This is an increase from 1545 in January 2023:
 - a 12% increase in 6 months
 - a 69% increase from in 3 years (June 2020)
- Increasingly, Hamilton's shelter system is serving more refugee and asylum seekers (from 20% - 32% on a given night)

Context

- In July 2022, the Social Planning Research Council Report analyzed post-COVID shelter demand and capacity, and recommended a suite of actions to address homelessness and pressures in the emergency shelter system.
- Staff brought forward Ending Chronic Homelessness (March 2023) and The Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap (April 2023) with recommended actions.
- In light of the alarming trends related to Hamilton's Housing Crisis, on April 2023, the City of Hamilton declared a crisis related to homelessness, mental health and opioid addiction
- In June 2023, public engagement on Hamilton's approach to encampments resulted in a consensus on the City's need to invest in permanent housing solutions

We must address both Emergency Response AND Permanent Housing Solutions



Emergency
Response –
Immediate
Supports

Permanent
Housing & Long
Term Solutions

3 Pronged Solution

Housing-Focused
Emergency Response



Immediate
Housing Solutions



Long-Term Housing
Strategies



Immediate Opportunities To Help People

	Recommendations	\$ Levy 2023	Outcome
	Emergency Shelter Overflow	\$4.1M	Temporary accommodations for up to 30 families/night in hotels
	Winter Response	\$876,000	Warming centres for 150-200 people/night experiencing homelessness (September 7, ECS)
	CHH-King William	\$600,000	Move 24 individuals from encampments into housing
	Acorn Flats Housing for Families	\$2.3M	Grant to Indwell to construct 20-25 permanent supportive housing units for families by end of 2024

These recommendations require in-year decisions

Opportunities To Help People - Referred to 2024 Budget (1 of 2)



Recommendations	\$ Levy 2024	Outcome
Prong 1 – Housing Focused Emergency Response		
Emergency Shelter Overflow	\$4.5M	Temporary accommodations for up to 30 families/night in hotels
Case Management Supports	\$190K	Support for families in hotels
Women’s Shelter Beds	\$952K	Continued funding for 20 overflow beds in women’s homelessness system
Shelter Diversion	\$333K	Prevent up to 600 men, women, youth and families from homelessness

These investment decisions are referred to the 2024 budget process in order to provide Council the ability to consider all recommendations and prioritize accordingly

Opportunities To Help People - Referred to 2024 Budget (2 of 2)



Recommendations	\$ Levy 2024	Outcome
Prong 2 – Immediate Housing Solutions		
CHH-King William - Supports	\$1.2M	Supports for 24 individuals from encampments when in housing
Housing Allowances	\$2.0M	Create 333 additional housing allowances/municipal housing benefit
5x Housing Services Staff	\$502K	Staff to deliver homelessness prevention and shelter services
Prong 3 - Long Term Housing Strategies		
HSIR Reserve	~\$10.3M	Commitment of funding for future permanent supportive housing projects

These investment decisions are referred to the 2024 budget process in order to provide Council the ability to consider all recommendations and prioritize accordingly

Additional Recommendations



Explore opportunities to create supportive housing through unfunded beds in Residential Care Facilities

- ✓ Additional capacity, up to 100 new spaces
- ✓ Support for vulnerable people
- ✓ Cost-effective
- ✓ Collaborative approach requires Provincial & Federal partnership
- ✓ Will create flow through system

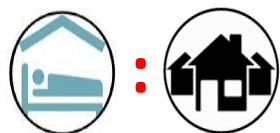
Additional Recommendations



\$31M investment over three years towards the development of supportive and/or affordable housing, led by the Housing Secretariat, to leverage provincial and federal funding



Additional Recommendations



Policy framework to guide future municipal investment in the housing sector to shift to an ideal ratio for emergency response, homelessness prevention and permanent housing solutions to decrease reliance on emergency interventions



Advocacy to Provincial and Federal government



STRATEGIES FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS

CAN WE MOVE FROM THIS...



...TO THIS!





Hamilton

QUESTIONS?