

BRUCE COUNTY

# Housing & Homelessness Plan Progress Report

2020



**BRUCE**  
county



# Background and Vision

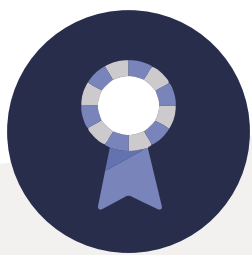
*Over the past year, council, staff, community partners, non-profit providers, local municipalities and the private sector have worked diligently to advance housing initiatives through ongoing partnerships, collaboration and community participation. In 2019, we developed Bruce County's Housing & Homelessness Plan Update to reevaluate the housing goals and actions.*

## Housing & Homelessness Plan Strategies

In conjunction with community partners and residents we identified five strategies:

- Increase Affordable Housing Stock
- Explore Rural Mobility Model
- Better Understand the Needs of Youth and Indigenous Groups
- Increase Housing Support Options
- Maintain a Coordinated System and Strong Partnerships





# 2020 Highlights



Ongoing construction of the work on the new housing development in the Municipality of Kincardine to replace 15 RGI units, provide 10 new affordable and 10 new modest market units



Developed the Housing Response Steering Committee and hired the Housing System Navigator to develop a By-Names List and respond to homelessness in the region



**\$115,000**

distributed to 14 homeowners for energy efficiency and accessibility upgrades



**90** applicants offered community housing units in 2020

**\$115,000**

in Housing Allowances provided to Bruce County residents

**\$240,000**

distributed in 2020 for first or last month's rent, rental arrear, utility arrears and or moving expenses



**\$21,250**

distributed for Westario Power's Low-income Energy Assistance (LEAP) program

**\$1.2**

million in funding provided to 15 community partners to provide services to vulnerable residents during the Covid-19 pandemic





# Coming in 2021

**Occupancy** of our 35-unit apartment building

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**Continued financial support** for the Community Delivered Rent Supplement Pilot Program to increase the number of supportive rental opportunities in Bruce County

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**Sustained investment** in the home repair program

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**Continuation of the Housing Stability Fund** to assist households with first or last month's rent, rent arrears, utility arrears and/or moving expenses

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**Continued collaboration** through membership in the Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force, as well as, specific efforts of the Housing Initiatives Working Group

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**Continuation of Housing Response Table** to provide access to a system navigator for vulnerable residents

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**Partnership** with Planning and Development for the creation of an Affordable Housing Toolkit to promote affordable housing development





# Progress on Addressing Actions

A healthy, coordinated and integrated housing and homelessness system relies on the efforts of all partners to help advance solutions. Based on community feedback regarding the current housing issues facing Bruce County, the following five goals that were identified are listed below:



## **Increase affordable housing stock.**

Bruce County understands there is a lack of available housing stock throughout the region. Bruce County is committed to working with the non-profit housing providers and the private sector as well as lower-tier municipalities to increase the affordable housing stock, including supportive housing, in Bruce County.



## **Explore rural mobility models.**

Bruce County has limited transportation options either within communities or between communities. Although solving the transportation concerns is outside the scope of the Plan, we will work with community partners, private and public sector employers and lower-tier municipalities to discuss transportation barriers and solutions.



**Better understand the needs of Youth & Indigenous groups.** As suggested in the Bruce County's 2018 Homelessness Enumeration, youth and Indigenous groups were suggested as avenues for further study.



## **Increase housing support options.**

Bruce County will review and determine how best to meet the needs of individuals and families at greatest risk and help them access services quickly, by exploring and leveraging supportive housing options.



## **Maintain a Coordinated System and Strong Partnerships.**

Navigating the system can be a confusing and daunting task. Bruce County and its community partners are aware of the need for a coordinated system with a no wrong door approach. Bruce County is committed to strengthening collaborative partnerships to streamline and transform services as well as explore a Housing First Approach for rural communities to assist with rapid rehousing and ending homelessness.

# Increase Affordable Housing Stock

## Accomplishments

- Development of a 35 unit build in the Municipality of Kincardine
- Approximately \$2 million in capital repairs to maintain affordable housing stock



## What's Next

- 1 Collaboration with Planning and Economic Development for the creation of navigational and visual tool to promote affordable housing to developers
- 2 Engage with municipal councils to seek local commitment to prioritize surplus public land
- 3 Develop and promote the development of secondary units in existing homes and new builds
- 4 Respond to regular inquiries from developers who want to build affordable housing
- 6 Encourage secondary units as accessory apartments
- 7 Continue to work with municipalities to leverage flexibility for affordable housing development

# Explore Rural Mobility Model

## Accomplishments

- Continued to bring the voice of the plan to integrated mobility and transportation discussions

## What's Next

- 1 Continue to bring the voice of the Plan to discussion on integrated mobility and transportation



## Better Understand the Needs of Youth and Indigenous Groups

### Accomplishments

- Ongoing collaboration with our service sector partners serving the needs of Youth and Indigenous Groups to build capacity for the research project to better understand the needs of Youth and Indigenous Groups

### What's Next

- 1 Beginning phases of a research project to understand the needs of Youth and Indigenous groups

## Increase Housing Support Options

### Accomplishments

- Continued partnership with VON Aging at Home Supportive Housing in County operated social housing units
- Continued work with CMHA to increase supported housing options through the Housing Response Table and other joint initiatives such as supported rent supplement units

### What's Next

- 1 In partnership with CMHA hire a Housing Support Worker to work directly with tenants to prevent eviction



# Maintain a Coordinated System and Strong Partnerships

## Accomplishments

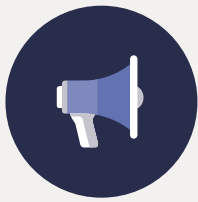
- Developed Housing Response Steering committee to lead our work with the homeless population
- Continued partnership with CMHA for supported rent supplement units
- Community Support Program engages tenants who are at risk of losing their housing or who may need additional supports to keep their housing
- Continuation of the Community Delivered Rent Supplement Pilot Project

## What's Next

- 1 Continue to work with community partners on the Housing Response Steering Committee
- 2 Continue to advance the collaborative work of the Bruce Gray Poverty Task Force - Housing Initiatives working group
- 3 Maintain collaborative partnership with community partners and health care providers to increase access to housing supports
- 4 Local Point In Time count to determine local needs of homelessness population







# Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)

The vision for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) is a better-coordinated and integrated service delivery system that is people-centered, outcome-focused and reflects a Housing First approach to prevent, reduce and address homelessness in communities across Ontario.

## CHPI's Objectives include:

- 1 To assist people experiencing homelessness obtain and retain housing
- 2 To assist people at risk of homelessness to remain housed



## Components

### HOUSING STABILITY FUND

To assist individuals, couples and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to secure affordable permanent housing in Bruce County.

### SHELTERING AND HOMELESSNESS SUPPORTS

The YMCA Grey Bruce Housing Program provides sheltering and support services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness.

### GIIWE PROJECT

An Indigenous led, inter-agency collaboration aimed at reducing off-reserve Indigenous homelessness.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT COORDINATION

Provide financial counseling and supports related to affordable housing to individuals who are at risk of eviction.

**in 2020**

# \$703,525

of provincial funding was spent on these programs to assist residents of Bruce County who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.



## Summary

*Bruce County has remained committed to its vision and has cultivated and developed strong partnerships within the community to broaden awareness and acceptance of the need for more affordable housing.*

A special thank you to County Council, County staff, local municipal councils and staff, all of our community partners and developers for their dedication, commitment and innovation shown that is proving to result in Better Housing Choices for all for our residents who call Bruce County Home.





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[www.brucecounty.on.ca/housing-services](http://www.brucecounty.on.ca/housing-services)

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