

BRUCE COUNTY

Housing & Homelessness Plan Progress Report

2025





Background and Vision

Bruce County developed a Long-term Housing Strategy, and Housing & Homelessness Plan Update 2019-2023, to guide our vision for affordable housing in our communities.

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.

Bruce County staff continue to create opportunities to drive the strategic initiatives set out in Bruce County's Housing & Homelessness Plan Update.

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





2025 Highlights



\$45,000

distributed to 3 homeowners for energy efficiency and accessibility upgrades.

74

applicants were offered community housing in 2025.

123

Westario Power customers received funding from Westario's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).

27

Bruce County residents receiving the Municipal Housing Allowance.

74

Bruce County residents receiving the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit.

63

Preserved tenancies through the Housing Stability Fund addressing rental arrears.

59

Households moved into affordable and sustainable homes with assistance from the Housing Stability Fund.

In partnership with Grey County, continue to develop a coordinated response to homelessness through the Grey Bruce Homelessness Prevention Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee provided front-line staff training opportunities on the By-Name List and Coordinated Access.

59

households receiving a rental subsidy.

20

households receiving Saugeen Shores Municipal Housing Allowance with 10 households added in July 2025.

2

Supported the completion and occupancy of 2 Affordable Additional Rental Units (ARUs).

Bruce County hosted the third Annual Housing Forum focused on housing needs and non-profit collaboration.

Bruce County Outreach continues to offer services in communities throughout Bruce County. This includes opportunities offered in Saugeen Shores, Brockton, Kincardine, Chesley and Lion's Head.



2025 Highlights

Implementation of Case Manager

To enhance service delivery and strengthen support for community housing tenants, Tenant Services implemented the Case Manager software platform to improve the tracking, management, and resolution of tenant concerns and requests for support. The system provides a centralized approach to case management, enabling staff to document interactions, monitor outcomes, identify trends, and coordinate supports more effectively.

In 2025, Tenant Services utilized the platform to respond to 520 tenant concerns and 226 requests for assistance, demonstrating a significant level of engagement with tenants and proactive response to housing-related needs. The software also supported coordinated service delivery through 12 referrals to community partners, helping connect tenants with specialized resources and supports. The implementation of Case Manager has improved accountability, data collection, and service coordination, ultimately enhancing Tenant Services' ability to respond efficiently and effectively to tenant needs while promoting housing stability and well-being.

Implementation of Tenant Portal

In 2025, Tenant Services introduced the Tenant Portal to provide tenants with additional options for receiving information, accessing services, and communicating with staff in a timely and convenient manner. The portal represents an important step in modernizing service delivery by offering a secure, accessible platform that enhances communication and improves access to important housing-related information.

Building on this foundation, plans are underway in 2026 to expand the portal's service offerings and functionality. These enhancements will further strengthen communication, increase access to supports and resources, and provide tenants with additional self-service options, supporting Tenant Services' commitment to responsive, tenant-centered service delivery.





Transitional Housing

Building on work initiated in 2024, Bruce County continued its partnership with the YMCA and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) to develop and implement a transitional housing model within the community housing portfolio. The program was designed to provide targeted housing and support services to individuals facing barriers to housing stability, and active on the By-Name List. Since its launch, eight individuals have entered the program, with six participants successfully stabilizing their housing situations and achieving key program goals. Building on these positive outcomes, planning is now underway to support participants in transitioning from the program into permanent housing, further strengthening pathways to long-term housing stability and independence.

3rd Annual Housing Forum

In celebration of National Housing Day, Bruce County hosted the third annual Housing Forum on November 19, 2025, in Port Elgin.

This full-day event, themed *Together in Action*, united a diverse group of stakeholders including builders, developers, non-profits, funders, policy makers, community partners and municipal leaders to collaborate on housing solutions for Bruce County.

The Forum showcased successful partnerships driving housing solutions, and several local municipalities shared updates on incentives and investments in housing projects on municipal lands.

Developers offered both private market and non-profit perspectives on current housing development challenges and opportunities.





Coming in 2026

Completion of the [2026-2036 housing & Homelessness Strategy](#).

Continuation of the [Housing Stability Fund](#) to assist households with first or last month's rent, rent arrears, utility arrears and/or moving expenses.

Continuing the [Homelessness Response Steering Committee](#) to enhance the community homelessness response system.

Continued development of a [Coordinated Access System](#) including landlord engagement and transitional supports.

Bruce County will host the [fourth annual Housing Forum](#), focused on the non-profit housing sector.

Increasing communication and service options to tenants through the [Tenant Portal](#).

Partner with municipalities to implement the finalized [Encampment Protocol](#) and associated response practices.

Introduction of [Community Outreach and Support Team \(COAST\)](#), a mobile outreach team.



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.



Accomplishments

- \$3.4 million in capital repairs, including funding to two Non-Profit Housing Providers.
- Provided pertinent information to Council members and municipal staff during a one-day Housing Forum.
- Approval to build a 41-unit affordable community housing development in Brockton.

What's Next

- Continue to promote the development of Additional Residential Units (ARUs) in existing homes and new builds.
- Respond to regular inquiries from developers who want to build affordable housing.
- Continue to work with municipalities to leverage flexibility for affordable housing development.

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.

Accomplishments

- Continued support of the Homelessness Response Steering Committee to develop strategies to increase supportive housing.
- Continued partnership with VON Aging at Home Supportive Housing in community housing units.

What's Next

- Partner with Bruce County Community Paramedics to provide opportunities for outreach for people experiencing homelessness.
- Staff are partnering with community agencies to offer regular outreach programs across the region.
- Discussion with health partners, such as CMHA and Ontario Health Teams, to develop options for supportive housing in Bruce County.



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.

Accomplishments

- Continued representation on the Homelessness Response Steering Committee, Community Safety and Wellbeing – Housing Action Table, and Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force.
- Community Support Program to provide support for residents on the By-Name List in seeking more permanent housing.
- The Community Support Coordinator and Tenant Coordinators provided ongoing support to 18 tenants transitioning from homelessness to stable housing.
- Tenant Coordinators continue to provide support to BCHC tenants to provide a safe and stable home.
- In partnership with Grey County and the YMCA delivered an online community forum to discuss homelessness response and coordinated access.

What's Next

- Maintain collaborative partnerships with community partners and health care provider to increase access to housing supports.
- Modernization of Bruce County's homelessness data infrastructure.





Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP)

The vision for the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) 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.

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.

● Community Support Coordination

Provide housing stability support to individuals transitioning to more permanent housing.

28 People transitioned from homelessness to housed.

6,205 Nights of emergency shelter were provided in 2025.

226 Individuals supported by staff outside of emergency shelter.

HPP's objectives include:

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

In 2025

\$1,536,900

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.

We extend our appreciation to County Council, County staff, municipal partners, community organizations, and developers whose collective efforts continue to create more housing options and stronger communities throughout Bruce County.





For more information please contact:

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www.brucecounty.on.ca/housing-services

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