

ENDING

HOMELESSNESS

WHAT ONTARIO IS DOING



Ontario is committed to ending chronic homelessness by 2025.

INVESTMENTS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

\$1.6
billion

Total investment under the joint federal-provincial **Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)** program to build, renovate and provide critical affordable housing across the province, including over **\$336 million** in new money through the Social Infrastructure Fund.

\$338.7
million

Annual contribution to the **Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)** by 2019-20, with **\$294 million** to service managers in 2016-17 to help families and individuals at risk of homelessness stay in their homes and those experiencing homelessness get the housing they need.

\$100
million

Operating funding for housing allowances and support services, assisting up to 4,000 families and individuals to access new **supportive housing** over the next three years.

\$20
million

Investment with the federal government over two years in the **Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit Pilot**, helping 1,000 survivors of domestic violence and their families (per year) access more affordable housing options.

\$10
million

Targeted funding over two years from the **Local Poverty Reduction Fund** to help prevent and end homelessness across the province.

PROGRESS IN FOUR PRIORITY AREAS

Chronic Homelessness

- To identify the drivers of chronic homelessness, responses, innovations and best practices, a cross-government team visited various Ontario communities to listen and collaborate with local partners. Informed by the issues raised and lessons learned, the province has taken action to better coordinate inter-related areas such as housing, healthcare, justice, social assistance and services, and child welfare.

Indigenous Homelessness

- Ontario is developing an Indigenous Housing Strategy to address the unique housing challenges of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples – and has formed an Indigenous Housing Strategy engagement table to help guide this work.
- The Investment in Affordable Housing extension dedicates **\$44.1 million** for off-reserve Indigenous housing.

Youth Homelessness

- The province partnered with the national coalition *A Way Home* to create a **Youth Homelessness Community Planning Toolkit**, helping communities make decisions locally.
- Ontario will co-host “policy labs” with local partners to engage youth with lived experience of homelessness, to talk about how to prevent youth from becoming homeless adults.

Transitions from Institutions

- A cross-government group is working to reduce and prevent homelessness following transition from provincial service systems.
- The province launched an innovative new “bail beds” program to provide safe, supervised housing for low-risk individuals in the criminal justice system in five Ontario communities.
- The province introduced legislation that, if passed, would raise the age of protection from 16 to 18 to increase services for youth in unsafe living conditions, to support their education and to reduce homelessness and human trafficking.



January 2017

 Ontario

Ontario is working to support the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy vision that every person has an affordable and suitable home to provide the foundation to:



**Secure
Employment**



**Raise a
Family**



**Build Strong
Communities**

Improving Access and Choice

- The province is developing a **Supportive Housing Policy Framework** that will help transform Ontario's supportive housing system to one that is based on client choice, enabling people to live as independently as possible in their community.
- To offer more housing choice, flexibility, consistency and certainty to Ontarians, the province is working to develop a framework for **an income-based portable housing benefit**. More details will be available in summer 2017.

Building Capacity

- Beginning in 2018, Ontario will require **enumeration**, or counting homeless populations at the local level, to gather useful data about homelessness.
- The province co-hosted a **Canada-Ontario Summit** with the federal government (The Time is Now: Working Together to End Homelessness) to build capacity and foster collaboration across the sector.

Modernizing Legislation

- Ontario passed the **Promoting Affordable Housing Act** on December 6, 2016. The act supports improved access to suitable and affordable housing (through tools like inclusionary zoning) and helps to modernize the social housing system.

Impacting Lives

- In 2015-16, CHPI assisted approximately 39,600 households experiencing homelessness obtain housing and 115,600 households at-risk of homelessness remain in their homes.

CHPI funding is being used in numerous ways, for example:

- The Off the Street Emergency Shelter in Sudbury provides outreach for the chronically homeless population. The **emergency shelter** allows individuals who struggle with alcohol and/or drug addiction to access services including meals and supports to help them find housing.
- Housing York Inc. partnered with the Town of Richmond Hill and other social service agencies to develop a **community hub** targeted to youth who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, small families, singles and seniors who are on low to moderate fixed incomes.
- The Street Level Women at Risk Response in London provides a **rapid response** to women in crisis, housing with intensive in-home support and a health, wellbeing and community belonging component.

