



Hamilton's Approach to Addressing Affordable Housing & Homelessness

Canadian Housing & Renewal Association
Annual Congress

May 2, 2013



Hamilton
Community Services



Presentation Outline

- Facts and figures about Hamilton
- Creating a 10 year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- A consolidated approach to addressing homelessness
– The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Review
- Key themes and learning



Hamilton, Ontario

- Mid size municipality in the heart of the “Golden Horseshoe”, adjacent to the “GTA”



Hamilton Facts & Figures - Economy

- Population 520,000 expected to grow to 650,000 by 2036 (2012 Ontario Ministry of Finance)
- Major industrial City – steel and other manufacturing
- Economic shifts to more professional, service based economy with strong “MUSH” sector
- Hard hit by last economic recession



Hamilton Facts & Figures – Economy

- Relatively affordable housing costs compared to neighbouring GTA
- Regional centre for social and health services
 - Results in greater numbers of people accessing services than in other communities
- Positive signs of downtown renewal
 - May have implications for housing affordability



Hamilton Facts & Figures - Needs

- Highest poverty rate in Ontario – almost 20%
(2006 Census)
- 1 in 5 renter households pay more than 50% income on housing (2006 Census)
- 5400 households on wait list for social housing
(2013 City of Hamilton)
- Almost 400 individuals staying in a shelter on any given night (2011 City of Hamilton)



The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Why an Action Plan?

- Not everyone in Hamilton has a home
- Provincial requirement to create 10 year plans
- Guide for future decision making
- Existing plans need updating



The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Collaborative Approach

- Action Plan is City led, but community owned
- Collaborative approach:
 - Partnership between City and the community-based Affordable Housing Flagship
 - Key sector representation on advisory Planning Group
 - Broad community engagement



The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

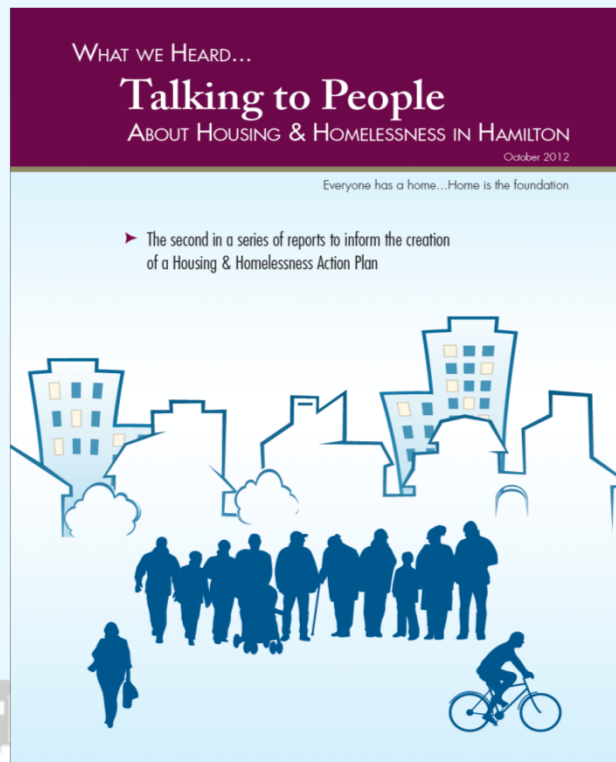
Community Engagement

- Hired 3 Community Facilitators
- 8 Citizen Advisory Committees to Council
- 22 Community Roundtable Discussions
- 7 Interviews with City Councillors
- 470 Surveys in 9 Public Spaces
- Community Check-In Event attracted 120 people



The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Community Engagement Report



“Home is a place you choose, not somewhere you are forced to stay at, out of necessity”

“We need to feel safe where we live - we don’t feel safe right now.”

“If you don’t know the questions to ask, it’s hard to find the service”

- community roundtable participants

The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Phase One: Strategic Plan

(June 2012 Council Approval)

- Research and need identification
- Community engagement
- Strategic components:
 - Aspiration
 - 7 Core Values
 - 5 Broad Outcomes
 - 54 Strategies

Phase Two: Implementation Framework

(Spring 2013)

- Set targets, determine Critical Investment Strategies
- Identify timelines, costs and stakeholders
- Apply an “equity” lens to strategies
- Monitor, report, evaluate



The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Vision

*Everyone has a home...
home is the foundation*



The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Core Values

1. **Person-Centred**
2. Rights Based and Anti-Discrimination
3. Recognition of Risk and Protective Factors
4. Evidence-Based, Measurable and Impact-Driven
5. Efficient and Effective Use of Community Resources
6. **Integrated and Comprehensive Community Planning**
7. Place and Neighbourhoods



Action Plan Outcomes

1. More **supply** of affordable housing is available (12 strategies)
2. More people can **afford** their housing, and have greater stability and choice (10 strategies)
3. People have the **supports** they need to help them obtain and maintain housing (9 strategies)
4. People live in housing that is good **quality, safe and suitable** to their needs (14 strategies)
5. People receive **respectful, quality service** and experience **equity** in housing (9 strategies)



The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Review

- In July 2012, the Province of Ontario announced they would consolidate 5 existing homelessness programs into one funding pot
 - Emergency Shelters, Domiciliary Hostels, Prevention Programs, Emergency Energy Fund and Rent Bank
- To plan for that consolidation, the City of Hamilton is doing an extensive review



Social Policy Sphere – Income Security, Housing, Public Health, Employment, Food Security, Immigration/Inclusion etc.

Local Planning Efforts – Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, The Blueprint, Domiciliary Hostel Review Implementation, Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program Evaluation (including Out of Streets, Into Shelters Review), Housing Stability Benefit Planning, Corporate Strategic Plan, Homelessness Partnering Strategy, Day Services Review

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative

Service Categories: Emergency Shelter Solutions, Housing with Related Supports, Other Services and Supports (i.e. street outreach, case management, food banks, etc.), Homelessness Prevention

Two Outcomes: 1) People experiencing homelessness obtain/retain housing, 2) People at risk of homelessness remain housed

Current Local Programs

Emergency Energy Fund

Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Program

Emergency Shelter System

Residential Care Facilities

Rent Bank

Housing Stability Benefit



The Community Homeless Prevention Initiative Review

- Between January 2013 – July 2013 we are looking extensively at the literature, our program data and talking to key stakeholders in order to make sound funding and service delivery recommendations

Planning Phase	Until Mid January
Main Research Component	Mid January – Mid March
Additional Research & Analysis	March through June
Consultations	March 1 – May 30
Emergency and Community Services & City Council	September 2013



Housing and Homelessness Planning - Lessons

Important Considerations:

- Person centredness
- Collaboration/engagement
- Evidence-based decision making
- Strategic advocacy



Housing and Homelessness Planning - Lessons

Issues/challenges:

- Funding constraints
- Capacity
- Human services integration
- Siloed planning (provincial, municipal, community-based)



Thank You

For more information about Hamilton's Housing & Homelessness Action Plan please visit:

www.hamilton.ca/HousingActionPlan



Hamilton
Community Services

