



HOUSING OUR FUTURE

Our Community 10-Year Affordable Housing
and Homelessness Prevention Strategy



2020
ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from the Warden

Affordable and attainable housing has, and continues to be, a significant issue of importance to our communities and residents. At the County of Simcoe, we continue to work towards addressing affordable housing needs. We are making good progress but we know there is still more to be done as wait lists increase and the impacts from Covid-19 become more apparent. During the pandemic, the County and our community partners have pursued the affordable housing targets outlined in *Our Community 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy*, while delivering much-needed emergency relief funding and supports.

In partnership with public, private, and non-profit sectors, the County created 491 new affordable housing units in 2020 using federal, provincial, and regional government funding. Since the current *Strategy* began in 2014, 2,364 units have been created, achieving 88% of the overall target.

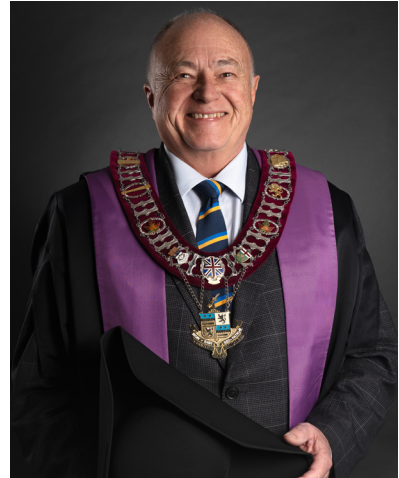
New units are created through a mix of programs, including rent supplements and housing allowances, the Ontario Renovates and Secondary Suites programs, affordable homeownership, and new affordable rental development.

The County has made significant progress on our new affordable rental builds throughout 2020, including:

- Completion of 99 affordable units in Wasaga Beach for families and seniors.
- Completion of 41 affordable units in Victoria Harbour for seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Council approval of \$80M for a redevelopment project to transform the Orillia District Collegiate Vocational Institute (ODCVI) into a regional community hub, providing affordable housing options for seniors and other mixed-income households. In addition to creating 130 new mixed-affordable residential units, this space will feature 60,000 square feet of commercial space that will host important community and social services, as well as childcare.

December 31, 2020 marked the completion of Phase 2 of the strategic Implementation Plan, occurring from January 2018 through December 2020. The County exceeded its Phase 2 target of creating 895 new units from 2018-2020, achieving 1,347 new units.

Moving forward in 2021, the County will continue to support and strengthen the community through a post-pandemic recovery while working towards the achievement of targets outlined in the third and final phase of the *Strategy*.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Cornell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

George Cornell

Warden, County of Simcoe

Housing Our Future

2020 Annual Report

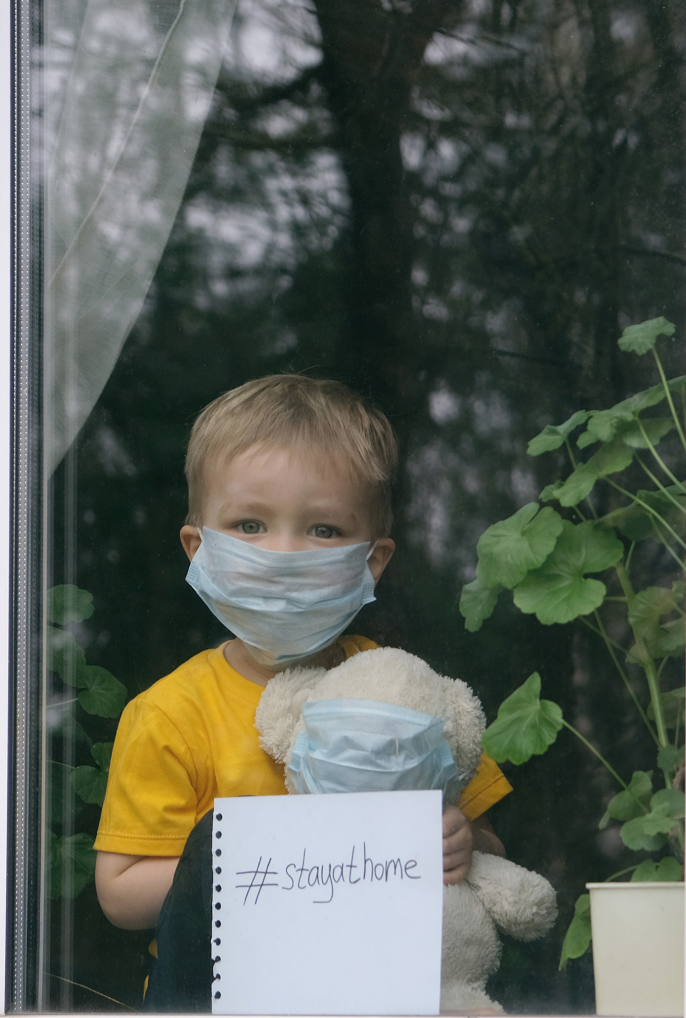
January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

Each year, under the Housing Services Act (2011), the County of Simcoe reports to the public and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) on progress made under its 10-year long-term affordable housing strategy, which took effect in January 2014.

The annual report tracks indicators according to the targets set under five strategic themes within the 10-year Strategy. It uses a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework to analyze program and service-delivery performance measures.

In addition to measuring the Strategy's effective implementation, this report would be incomplete without acknowledging the additional challenges and comprehensive emergency responses provided to address housing and homelessness issues worsened by the Covid-19 global pandemic.





2020 Covid-19 Emergency Response

The effects of Covid-19 have profoundly affected all County residents, but especially those already facing the barriers of poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness.

Throughout the pandemic, the County of Simcoe worked with our partners to quickly plan and deliver emergency relief funding and connect residents to essential resources, services, and support programs.

Tailored Local Delivery of Federal and Provincial Funding:

The *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy* (RH) provided a total of 3.46 million in funding to help communities address the pandemic's immediate impacts throughout 2020.

The Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) provided a total of \$5.8 million in funding to help municipalities protect vulnerable people's health and safety during Covid-19.

With federal and provincial funding, the County was able to:

- Arrange for people experiencing homelessness to be housed within a motel model of shelter until such time as shelters can resume operating at more like pre-pandemic capacity
- Enhance food security through the provision of funding extended to food banks throughout the region
- Provide housing retention and stability through funding provided to eligible clients for rent and/or utility arrears
- Establish and deliver health and medical services and client support services
- Provide modifications and retrofits required for Congregate Shelters to be operational while still meeting pandemic-related safety requirements
- Address current and envisioned future needs such as Personal Protective Equipment, Food and Supplies and Isolation/Quarantine site



County of Simcoe Covid-19 Emergency Response Committee

The County of Simcoe established a Covid-19 Emergency Response Committee comprised of senior leadership from across the organization. The committee continues to meet weekly to review recommendations from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), as presented by the Chief Medical Officer.

Although this section highlights housing and homelessness prevention responses, the County of Simcoe's Covid Response extended across the Corporation. Staff across all divisions and departments worked to address and mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on County residents.

Intervention activities included, but were not limited to:

- Continued delivery of essential services such as paramedics, long-term care, transit, roads maintenance, property management, and waste management
- Increased communications to inform the public on changing health recommendations and service delivery changes
- Economic development interventions and resources for local business
- Financial planning for the rollout of emergency funding
- Emergency management and procurement strategies to secure supplies such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and more

Changing the way we work

To increase safety measures and address labour shortages in essential service areas, The County of Simcoe implemented a redeployment strategy. Many staff members were redeployed to fulfil crucial service roles—assisting in the continuity of operations to support our essential services or directly assisting with new Covid-19 staff protocols in the County's four long-term care homes.

The County of Simcoe continues to provide supports for County residents during this difficult time, with a forward focus on moving towards comprehensive Covid-recovery strategies.

Social services staff on the front lines continue to deliver social assistance to low-income residents in new, innovative ways using physical distancing as much as possible to help ensure the health and well-being of both clients and staff.

Support for Community Partners

The pressures faced by staff in homelessness services have significantly increased due to the pandemic. The following initiatives have been implemented to help support staff:

- Provincial Temporary Pandemic Pay to support a temporary wage increase for eligible front-line staff
- One-Time Wage Enhancement to support a temporary wage increase for eligible shelter and outreach workers
- Mental health and harm reduction staffing and training supports to shelters operating in motels, supported by Mental Health and Addictions Funding.



STRATEGIC THEME ONE

Strong Governance and Leadership

Desired outcome: Successful implementation of the Strategy, supported by working partnerships with the public and private sectors, and all levels of government.

Strong governance and leadership require collaboration and partnership across all levels of government.

The County of Simcoe continues to maintain strong working relationships with a number of partners, including, but not limited to: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

(CMHC) • Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) • Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) • Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) • Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) • Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) • Housing Services Corporation (HSC) • Enbridge Gas

• Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) • Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario, Affordable Housing Workgroup (RPCO) • Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) • Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness (SCATEH)

Throughout 2020, the Affordable Housing Advisory

continued on Page 7

continued from Page 6

Committee (AHA) and County staff collaborated with its public, private, and not-for-profit sector partners to support the successful implementation of the *Strategy*, providing an effective response to social service needs amid an extreme public health crisis.

The County of Simcoe understands the affordable

housing challenges faced by communities across Simcoe County. Inflated house prices, high rents, a lack of diversity in housing types and tenures, and limited housing stock make it difficult for residents to find suitable affordable housing to meet their needs.

What's more, individuals' and families' specific housing needs

change over time.

Through its Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, the County continues to seek solutions that will increase affordable housing options for all income levels and promote various types and tenures of housing to ensure needs are met across the housing continuum.



The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee met to address several topics in 2020. Highlights include:

- Publication of a Phase Three Implementation Plan for Our Community 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy, outlining actions towards achievement targets throughout 2021-2024
- Collaboration with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to plan and host a series of affordable housing virtual forums, bringing together public, private, non-profit sectors, local advocacy groups, and County residents to provide information on innovative approaches to financing and developing affordable housing
- Advocacy to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to propose National Building Code modifications that support affordable housing development
- Ongoing monitoring and reporting of local housing data, including affordable rents, house prices, and secondary suites
- Research and discussion on a variety of topics, including housing diversity, shared accommodation, housing as a right.

STRATEGIC THEME TWO

Achieve Affordable Housing Target

Desired outcome: Simcoe County residents have access to a minimum of 2,685 new affordable housing units by 2024.

Our Community 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy aims to promote, provide, and protect a range of affordable housing options for County residents to ensure that all residents have access to adequate, appropriate and affordable housing that will meet their needs.

Through a combination of new development, rent supplements/

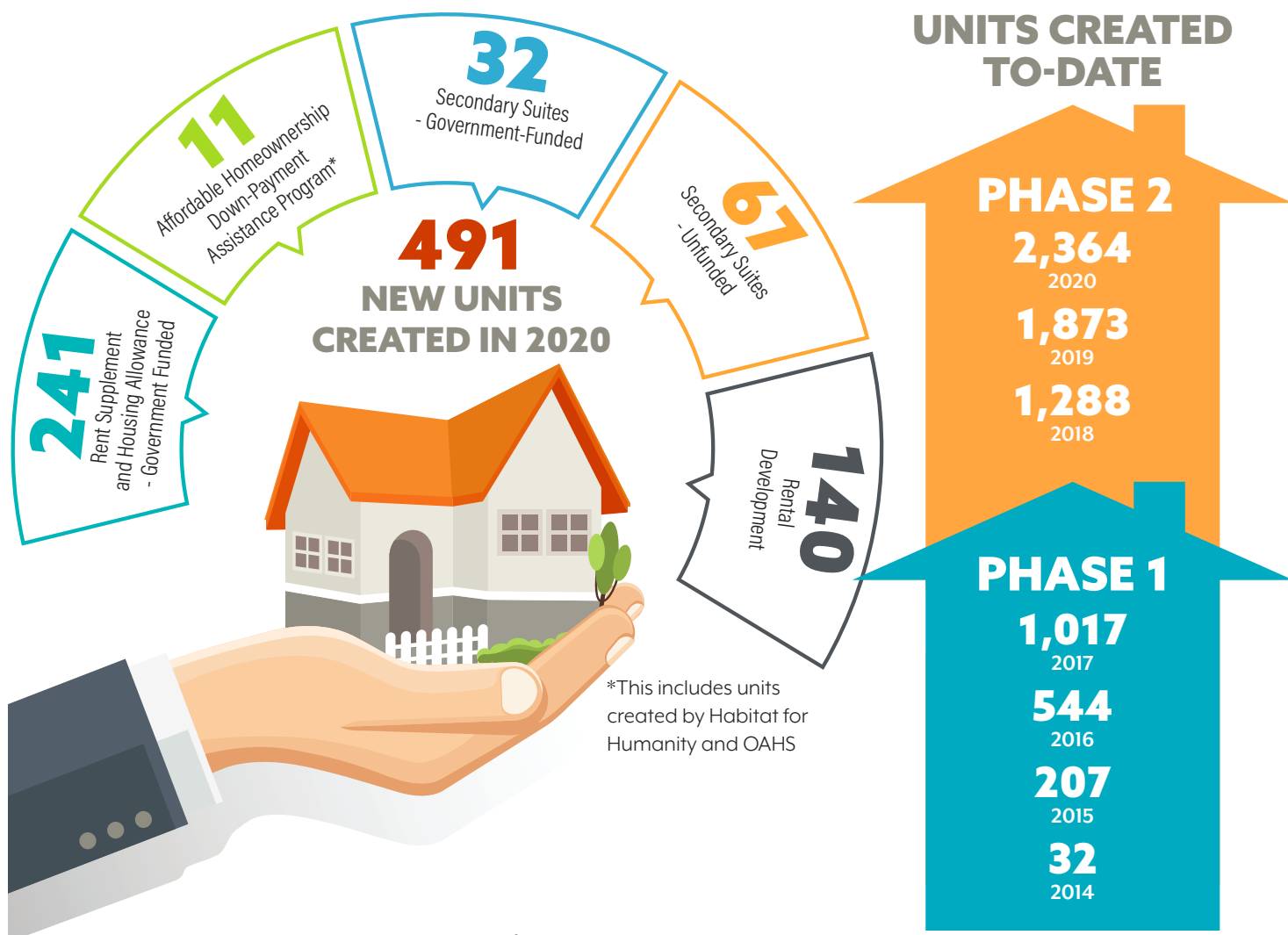
housing allowances, homeownership assistance, and the creation of secondary suites, the County and its community partners have achieved the creation of 2,364 new units of affordable housing since 2014, including 491 new units in 2020.

December 31, 2020, marked completion of the County's Implementation Strategy: Phase Two (2018-2020).

The County, and its municipal

and community partners, have achieved 88% of the set minimum target of 2,685 new units by 2024.

Understanding the deep need for continued homelessness prevention, housing with supports, and affordable housing options across the region, the County will continue to leverage available funding and resources to create as many new units as possible.





Affordable Housing Program Delivery

The Strategy builds on initiatives proven to work in Simcoe County, which has led to innovative and effective program development and delivery. Using a Results-Based-Accountability (RBA) Framework, the County can measure its performance accountability and track programs' successful implementation. In combination, the following programs have worked to increase affordable housing stock across Simcoe County while addressing a variety of housing pressure points across the housing spectrum.

Rent Supplements

A rent supplement or housing allowance provides rental assistance for tenants who cannot afford a landlord's regular market rent. Rent supplements focus on supporting individuals and families with lower incomes and can bridge the gap between social assistance shelter rates and rent, or provide a flat rate for lower-income working households.



With people like you as representatives - people who are present and who truly care about remedying need - the world becomes a different place for those of us facing homelessness, isolation, and mental health challenges. Hope becomes possible again.

S., Rent Supplement Recipient



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

In 2020, the County distributed **\$1.86M** rent supplement/housing allowance subsidy dollars



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- Together with community partners, County staff connected 99% of all referrals received to an eligible affordable housing unit with rent subsidy support
- Throughout 2020, rent supplements assisted households in every municipality, including the cities of Barrie and Orillia



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- 241 households were housed with new rent supplements in 2020
- 845 households have been housed with rent supplements since 2014
- Rent supplements continue to assist seniors, youth, low-income earners, indigenous persons, survivors of human trafficking, persons experiencing mental health or addiction challenges, persons experiencing chronic homelessness, and others in addressing systemic poverty barriers.

Affordable Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance Program

Through its Homeownership Down-Payment Assistance Program, the County of Simcoe provides eligible individuals and families with down-payment assistance towards purchasing a home (in the form of a forgivable loan). Enabling individuals and families to move out of rental accommodation and into affordable homeownership increases rental opportunities for others by freeing up existing rental space for a new tenant to move in.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

In 2020, the County distributed **\$347,700** in affordable homeownership down-payment supports.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

Homes purchased were within affordability limits, with the average house purchase price at **\$368,700**



This is absolutely a dream come true for me and the little ones. Thank you so much for all of your help and your hard work. My Heart is so full. This program is absolutely amazing!

T., Homeownership
Down-Payment Assistance Recipient



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- 8 households were housed with Affordable Homeownership Down-payment Assistance in 2020
- 126 households have been housed with Affordable Homeownership Down-payment Assistance since 2014

In 2020, a total of **\$761,510** was returned to the County of Simcoe's Revolving Fund. This sustainability fund holds any down-payment assistance that purchasers pay back, for redistribution to future program participants. Since 2018, the Affordable Homeownership Program has been operating solely through the Revolving Fund.



Affordable Second Suites, Urgent Home Repairs, and Accessibility Modifications through Ontario Renovates and County-Funded Programs

Secondary suites help address housing pressure points through the development of new one- and two-bedroom affordable rental units, improving the range of options available to single individuals, ageing couples, and single-parent households. In the form of a 10-year forgivable loan, financial assistance is also available for homeowners requiring urgent home repairs or accessibility modifications to stay housed. Examples of eligible repair projects include mould remediation, plumbing or septic repairs, and roofing or structural repairs. Examples of accessibility modifications include the installation of ramps, handrails, or chair and bath lifts.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

In 2020, the County of Simcoe allocated **\$707,751** under its Municipal Secondary Suites funding program.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- 26 eligible households proceeded with a County-funded Secondary Suites application
- 20 were approved for funding
- 6 were waitlisted, and will receive the next available funding



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

The County also distributed **\$232,147** of federal and provincial Secondary Suites funding, and an additional **\$361,460** in Urgent Home Repairs, through the Ontario Renovates Program.



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- 15 eligible households proceeded with a Secondary Suites Application, funded through the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)
- 8 were approved for funding in 2020
- 7 are approved to receive funding in 2021



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- 32 new secondary suites were completed in 2020, with government funding.
- 169 new secondary suites have been created with government funding since the onset of the Strategy in 2014.

Secondary suites continue to be a valuable tool in the creation of more affordable housing. Creating affordable rental units within pre-existing communities—near schools, employment, and other amenities, second suites can also support homeowners with an additional income.

Through the Ontario Renovates Program:

- 44 units were supported with urgent home repairs or accessibility modifications in 2020
- 304 units have been supported with urgent home repairs or accessibility since 2014.

New Rental Development



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

Budget investment of **\$26.8M** in new development in partnership* with the Town of Wasaga Beach



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- This project was completed under budget.
- The unknown requirements of the pandemic jeopardized the completion of the project. Regulations and procedures were developed, and new safety steps and protocols developed and introduced. These safety measures allowed all residents of the 99 suites to move in, although at a slower pace, to ensure health safety protocols.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

Budget investment of **\$13.5M** in a new development in partnership** with the Township of Tay



HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?

- This project was completed under budget and on time, despite delays as a result of the pandemic.
- The County implemented several procedures that exceeded provincial requirements for Covid-19, which allowed construction to remain open, and maintain consistent progress throughout 2020.



HOW MUCH DID WE DO?

County Council approved an **\$80M** project to develop a hub for affordable housing, community services, and County support services in the City of Orillia



IS ANYONE BETTER OFF?

- 140 new affordable housing units were created in 2020
- 482 new affordable housing units were created since the onset of the Strategy in 2014



This has been the biggest break in my life ... [the units are] super-nice.

New Tenant, Wasaga Beach



Wasaga Beach

- 99-Units for seniors, single adults, and families
- 69 one-bedroom units
- 15 two-bedroom units
- 15 three-bedroom units

The Town of Wasaga Beach donated the four-acre Zoo Park Road site, waived property taxes for 20 years, and covered the cost of the planning and engineering review fees, official plan and zoning amendment applications.



Victoria Harbour

- 41-unit affordable residence for seniors and persons with disabilities

The Township of Tay donated the land to the County of Simcoe, and covered costs for planning and development studies.



Award-Winning Team Work

The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) honoured the County of Simcoe's Collingwood Social and Community Services Hub, opened in 2019, with the **2020 Local Municipal Champion Award**. This award recognizes efforts and accomplishments in advancing excellence in human services integration and service system management. The project featured the integration of social services into an affordable housing redevelopment and intensification project, pairing a two-building 147-unit site with commercial/office space for a number of social services that directly support success in housing. A collaboration between partners, including Ontario Works, Children Services, Simcoe County Housing Corporation, Simcoe County District School Board (adult learning programs), Empower Simcoe and EarlyON has led to increased access to services, which directly corresponds to increased client outcomes, tenant quality of life, and increased accessibility to support and services for individuals and families in the Collingwood area.



STRATEGIC THEME THREE

Protect Existing Public Assets

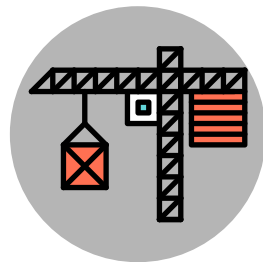
Desired outcome: 85% of existing social housing units in the County remain part of the housing stock.

Protecting Existing Stock

Protecting existing public housing assets is important. Ageing subsidized housing stock creates ongoing challenges to ensure that the units are properly maintained, safe and healthy for tenants. The County of Simcoe continues to invest in preserving existing housing assets and seek out opportunities to access funding for capital repairs and building improvements to increase accessibility and energy efficiency.



In 2020, The County invested **\$1.4M** on capital repairs for existing Simcoe County Housing Corporation units



Through its **Non-Profit Provider Capital Repair Loan process**, the County provided **\$2.4M** to assist mandated social housing providers with urgent capital repairs.

Maintaining Affordability upon End-of-Operating Agreements

Individual non-profit and cooperative providers have operating agreements for their buildings. As long as a mortgage is in place, the building will operate as social housing.

Some social housing providers can exit the social housing system when their operating agreements end. The County continues to work with providers to track the continuation of affordable housing amidst End of Operation Agreements and Mortgages (EOA/Ms).

Of the original 4,113 units in the social housing portfolio in 2014:

- **93% remain in the historical social housing system – 3,821 units**
- **99% of the original 4,113 units continue to remain as affordable housing in the community – including 274 units that have left the social housing system**

The County continues to seek opportunities to develop new approaches to providing housing affordability assistance to Simcoe County residents through a mix of existing rent-geared-to-income units, affordable housing units, use of rent supplements and housing allowances, and the provision of housing with supports.

Centralized Wait List: Rent-Geared-to-Income Housing

As of December 31, 2020, the total number of applicants on the Centralized Waitlist was **4,546**, an increase of **4.7%** over the waitlist reported in 2019. Applicants on the waitlist include:

- **Seniors: 19%**
- **Adults with no dependents: 52%**
- **Households with dependents: 29%**

Since 2019, changes in wait times have increased **50%** for households with dependents, **20%** for households with no dependents, and **7%** for seniors. Increases in wait times generally occur because of two main factors— economic changes and community composition change, such as fluctuations in population.

Covid-19 resulted in widespread economic and community composition changes, including mass unemployment, increasing house prices and cost of rent, and migration of residents—now able to work from home, outside of the GTA.

The 2020 Centralized Waitlist illustrates a continued demand for social and affordable housing. The County continues to research affordable housing challenges and seek solutions to ensure a balanced approach towards meeting the needs of residents.



STRATEGIC THEME FOUR

Planning for the Public Good

Desired outcome: All municipalities adopt planning, financial and policy tools highlighted in the strategy to facilitate and promote affordable housing development and transportation modes across the county.

Planning for the Future

A Municipal Liaison Group meets quarterly to discuss ways to improve affordable housing outcomes at the local municipal level, and share best practices for promoting and incentivizing affordable housing development. Topics discussed include:

- Presentations on Community Improvement Plans
- Development Charges Updates
- Discussions on Shared Accommodation
- Review of Second Suites Discount Rate
- Report on the Missing Middle Summit
- Rental Development Tracking
- Innisfil Orbit Updates
- Community Hubs Presentation: Benefits of Including Affordable Housing
- Third Units Discussion
- County of Simcoe's Affordable Housing and Homelessness Strategy: Implementation Plan Phase 3 (2021-2023)
- Affordable Housing Virtual Forum

Local Official Plans

Under the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990*, the County of Simcoe is the Approval Authority for all local municipal Official Plans. Municipalities must update their Official Plans every five to 10 years to ensure alignment with provincial and regional (County) plans, and consistency with provincial policy statements issued by the Minister.

Most member municipalities have undertaken an Official Plan Update and are at varying stages of completion. As of December 31, 2020, the County had approved four official plan updates, pending appeals to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT).

The Private Market

The County continues to make up to \$200K per year available as development charges rebates for affordable housing.

Seeking new and innovative approaches to affordable housing development, the County worked with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to host a series of Affordable Housing Virtual Forums in 2020-2021. Topics included Micro- and Modular-Housing, Land Leases and the Development Process, Creating Energy Efficiency through Passive Housing, and Funding and Financing for Affordable Housing Creation. Recordings of these events are available at [Simcoe.ca/ourahhps](https://simcoe.ca/ourahhps).



Building Complete Communities Transit

Accessible transportation plays an important role in all residents' health and wellness by improving access to: community supports, increased health care, places of employment, educational opportunities, and increased access to food and affordable housing options.

Through its LINX and LINX + public transit systems, the County provides residents with reliable and affordable transportation between major urban hubs and local transit services within the County. Launched in 2017, the LINX transit system committed to six new public transportation routes being opened by 2021. The newest route, linking Alliston and Bradford West Gwillimbury, opened in August 2020.

From March 23 to July 2, 2020, Linx suspended fare collection due to Covid-19, and introduced social distancing safety measures.

| ROUTE (RETURN TRIP) | PROJECTED OPENING | STATUS |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Midland-Penetanguishene-Barrie | Summer 2018 | Opened |
| Wasaga Beach-Stayner-Barrie | August 2019 | Opened |
| Orillia-Oro Medonte-Barrie | August 2019 | Opened |
| Collingwood-Wasaga Beach | August 2019 | Opened |
| Alliston-Bradford West Gwillimbury | August 2020 | Opened |
| Midland-Orillia | August 2021 | On schedule to open |

STRATEGIC THEME FIVE

Create an Integrated Service Model for Housing and Supports

Desired outcome: People experiencing homelessness obtain and retain housing.

The County of Simcoe continues to identify, support and house people experiencing homelessness using a Housing First approach, by working closely with local community stakeholders to develop diverse, responsive, and innovative homelessness prevention supports and services.

Planning and funding reflect alignment with federal and provincial policy, and include such funded domains as Homeless Shelters, a Regionalized Housing First Program delivered through Empower Simcoe, Domiciliary Care, Supportive Transitional Housing, Community Hubs, and housing retention for rent and energy arrears.

County staff, together with its community partners in the shelter system, continue to reflect on best practices learned in the wake of Covid-19. The County would like to acknowledge the hard work, flexibility, innovation, and resourcefulness of shelter system staff during this time.

63,397

nights spent in emergency shelters by combined households

105

households assisted with transitional housing

149

individuals supported by the County of Simcoe's Domiciliary Care Program

33

individuals supported by the Seniors at Home Program

28

households assisted with Rapid Re-Housing

206

households assisted with Housing First

1,559

unique individuals served through the homeless shelter system between March 1, 2020 and March 14, 2021

600+

people were housed from the shelter system through the efforts of Empower Simcoe housing staff, shelter staff, as well as individuals who self resolved.



Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

HIFIS is an information system provided by the Government of Canada's Employment and Social Development Canada department and is a community-level data collection and case management information system. At a local level, HIFIS increases understanding about homelessness challenges in Simcoe County. This information improves planning for services and initiatives. Data from HIFIS also assists service providers with case management; helping front-line staff provide coordinated services, and reduce duplication for HIFIS clients.

The focus for HIFIS in 2020 continued to be project development and refining HIFIS operations. Project development focused on HIFIS reports, while HIFIS operations focused on training with front-end users (i.e., service provider staff), data quality, and policy and procedures.

| TOTAL COMPLETE | NEW IN 2020 | % INCREASE FROM 2019 |
|---|--|----------------------|
| 12,138 total client files | 2,638 new files completed in 2020 | 28% |
| 251 active HIFIS users | 94 new users joined in 2020 | 25% |
| 31 total agencies | Five new agencies joined in 2020 | 16% |
| 41 total training sessions completed | 29 virtual training sessions since June 2020 | 273% |
| 35 HIFIS reports available to HIFIS users | 28 new reports released in 2020 | 400% |
| 1,965 HIFIS Help Desk requests/support | | |

More information is available at simcoe.ca/hifis

Improving Incidence on Data and Scope | Enumeration 2020

Since 2016, the Simcoe County community has conducted a Homeless Enumeration every two years, but was postponed due to the pandemic. The information collected helps service providers connect people to the appropriate programs and supports within the community, helps to inform policy and program development, and raises awareness about homelessness.

Additional information can be found at simcoe.ca/enumeration and scateh.com/enumeration

The family type of participants included:

- **82% Single, no children**
- **11% Single with children/dependent(s)**
- **1% Couple with children/dependent(s)**
- **5% Couples, no children**

The age of participants was:

- **18% Youth aged 16-24**
- **60% Adults aged 25-54**
- **22% Seniors aged 55+**

The gender identity of participants was:

- **57% male**
- **42% female**
- **1% additional respondents**

37 agencies

participated in the 2020 Homeless Enumeration by conducting surveys, providing utilization data, or spreading the word about enumeration.

563 people

were counted as experiencing homelessness on the reference night of November 17, 2020, either by participating in a homeless enumeration survey, through agency utilization data or through observational counts by outreach staff.

- **47%** (267 people) were staying in an emergency shelter
- **39%** (218 people) were provisionally accommodated (such as someone else's place, a motel/hotel they were paying for themselves, hospital, treatment centre, jail, prison, or remand centre)
- **14%** (78 people) were unsheltered or where they were staying was unknown (such as a vehicle, public place such as the street, bus shelter, forest, encampment, or abandoned building)



MOVING FORWARD IN HOUSING OUR FUTURE

Our *Community 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy* has now entered its third and final phase towards completion. Activities will occur as outlined in the document Implementation Plan: Phase 3 (2021 – 2024), available at simcoe.ca/ourahhps.

The County will continue to focus on ongoing efforts to support County residents through the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery. Through maximization of

provincial and federal funding, the County will continue to progress towards achieving targets within the Strategy.

The County worked with a number of non-profit groups to support applications to the federal Rapid Housing Initiative for capital funds to build housing with supports for people who have experienced homelessness. While none of the applications were successful under round one, there may be further opportunities to apply for funds in 2021.

Continued participation in advocacy efforts that work to reduce barriers and encourage changes in regulations that support affordable housing creation will also remain a focus, further exploring partnerships and funding opportunities to create affordable housing.

Ongoing research and analysis of current housing market trends, policies and funding opportunities will enable the County to remain responsive to local housing needs.



simcoe.ca