

## Strategic Opportunities and Priority Activities

Anticipated  
Timeline

### 4. Plan for the public good.

4.1	Amend local Official Plans to include the provision of a full range of housing types, in order to meet diverse needs of residents.	Short
4.2	Create a private developer and homebuilder roundtable to increase private involvement in affordable housing development across the County.	Short
4.3	All municipalities will be encouraged to adopt planning, financial and policy tools highlighted in the Strategy to facilitate and promote affordable housing development across the county.	Medium
4.4	The County should make a clear commitment to the municipalities as to the financial tools it will support and the circumstances under which it will also waive and/or defer fees or taxes to facilitate the development of affordable housing.	Short
4.5	The County will continue to work with local municipalities to support policies and infrastructures for transportation modes that support access to services, amenities and employment opportunities for those living in precarious, rental, subsidized and/or low income neighbourhoods where substandard housing may exist.	Ongoing
4.6	Increase education for, and about, affordable housing. Be proactive in addressing Not In My Back Yard (NIMBY) attitudes, with developers, landlords, and the general public.	Ongoing

### 5. Create an integrated service model for housing and supports.

5.1	Shift from emergency and shorter-term solutions, to housing with supports by professionalized staff, which is the only way to end homelessness.	Ongoing
5.2	Improve data on the incidence, scope and depth of homelessness and housing instability. Accurate data is required for policy decisions and program enhancements.	Medium
5.3	Explore opportunities for integrated technologies like the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) which will provide monitoring tools for accountability for an integrated housing and homelessness service model.	Medium
5.4	Focus investment on those residents with longer homelessness and more complex issues.	Short
5.5	Make necessary changes in the existing services, re-profiling funding as necessary, to focus on additional supports to people once housed to prevent future homelessness, including improving awareness of supports available for landlords and tenants.	Short
5.6	Improve the organization of services in community, including through hubs and satellites, to expand services County-wide rather than expecting people to find their way to services.	Medium
5.7	Remove unnecessary barriers by supporting harm reduction approaches and strategies to funded homeless services.	Short
5.8	Facilitate strategic, integrated partnerships and service delivery between the homeless, health and corrections sectors.	Medium



## HOUSING OUR FUTURE

*Our Community 10-year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy*

## Summary of Strategic Opportunities and Priority Actions



02-20-2014



# Our Community 10-year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy



## VISION

Adequate, appropriate and affordable housing for all Simcoe County residents.

## MISSION

To promote, provide and protect a range of housing options throughout the County of Simcoe.

## WE VALUE...

- Access to housing options and necessary supports throughout the life cycle.
- Diversity in our housing stock, ensuring variety of tenure, affordability, style, and proximity to amenities.
- Housing as a vehicle for improved health, community vitality, civic engagement, economic prosperity and social sustainability.
- Collaboration amongst levels of government, community partners and systems, recognizing that the need for safe, affordable, healthy housing connects all of our mandates as we strive for people-centered solutions.
- Support for the critical role of the private sector in the creation of housing stock.
- Social sustainability and inclusivity for all local residents, regardless of economics and tremendous population growth.
- Financial stewardship in maintaining existing government-assisted housing, investing in additional affordable housing, and helping people move from homelessness into housing.

The table that follows provides the strategic opportunities and priority activities required to meet the vision of achieving adequate, appropriate, and affordable housing for all Simcoe County residents. Anticipated timelines have been identified for each priority activity:



- Ongoing refers to activities that start at the beginning of the Strategy and continue throughout the life of the Strategy
- Short refers to the first 3 years
- Medium refers to years 4 to 7
- Long refers to years 8 through 10

Strategic Opportunities and Priority Activities		Anticipated Timeline
<b>1. Establish strong leadership and governance.</b>		
1.1	The County will work in partnership with local municipalities, community agencies, the private sector and other levels of government to implement this Strategy and build upon initiatives already proven to work in Simcoe.	Ongoing
1.2	Establish a Working Group comprised of elected officials, municipal senior staff, and representatives from the public, private, and non-profit sectors to be responsible for leading the implementation.	Short
1.3	Actively engage the private sector, to understand the barriers and advocate for changes in regulations and legislation to support the creation of affordable housing.	Ongoing
1.4	Advocate with other levels of government for changes in legislation and regulations that support initiatives and directions of the Strategy; increases in Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates and other poverty reduction initiatives.	Short
1.5	Consider establishing an Affordable Housing Reserve Fund to increase investment in housing spectrum and comprehensive supports for residents.	Ongoing
1.6	Monitor the implementation of the Strategy. The Working Group and County staff will update targets and recommendations within 5 years of the launch of the Strategy and/or in response to significant policy, program or funding shifts with the potential to impact the implementation of the Strategy.	Ongoing
1.7	Publish annual report cards on the implementation of the Strategy.	Ongoing
<b>2. Achieve affordable housing target</b>		
2.1	Between January 1 2014 and January 1 2024, facilitate the creation of a minimum of 2,685 units of affordable housing through new development, acquisition, renovation and/or rent supplements, with a minimum of 198 of the units being affordable owned dwellings.	Long
2.2	Optimize access to, and use of, rent supplements and/or other housing allowance assistance options as an efficient way to increase affordability.	Ongoing
2.3	Focus on supporting individuals and families in greatest housing need. Initiatives that increase affordable rental housing or help households access existing rental housing should focus first on renter households at the 40th income percentile or less.	Ongoing
2.4	Initiate a Sub-Committee to explore the creation of culturally appropriate off-reserve Aboriginal housing, with a goal of creating a minimum of 66 units of affordable home ownership dwellings specifically for off-reserve persons – included in minimum target of 2,685 units.	Short
2.5	The County, with its community partners, should ensure that the housing and support needs of youth are incorporated into future investments and initiatives. Housing with supports has proven to be an effective strategy for ending youth homelessness.	Short
2.6	Emphasize access to, and development of, primarily one and two bedroom units to address affordable housing pressure points and to improve the range of options available to single individuals and single-parent families who are homeless.	Ongoing
<b>3. Protect Existing Public Assets</b>		
3.1	Adaptively reuse under-used housing resources, including a review of overhousing situations in current Rent-Geared-to-Income units in County-owned and Non-Profit Housing.	Medium
3.2	Maintain and preserve existing housing assets and seize opportunities to renovate and improve other housing stock for the purpose of affordable housing.	Long
3.3	Create a Sub-Committee to review the impact of the end of operating agreements on social housing stock and make recommendations to the County Council on managing this transition.	Short
3.4	Where prudent to do so, maximize profit of existing housing stock as leverage for building more, newer housing stock elsewhere in the County.	Long