

Housing Solutions Phase 2 – 2023 Action Plan

Goal 1: Increase the Supply of Affordable and Rental Housing

Objective	2023 Actions
1. Plan for a full mix and range of housing options to support achievement of complete communities	1.1 Continue to support local municipal staff in development of housing related initiatives, including housing strategies and inclusionary zoning.
	1.2 Research housing gaps to better understand housing demand and inform future solutions and approaches to address housing need.
	1.3 Complete background work to support an update to the Affordable Housing Measuring and Monitoring Guidelines.
	1.4 Leverage the Region’s development tracking system (YorkTrax) to support housing supply analytics and visualization.
2. Implement tools and policies to increase the affordable housing supply	2.1 Develop an Affordable Private Market Housing Implementation Plan to identify and fund action, advocacy and partnership approaches to increase the supply of private market affordable housing.
	2.2 Through a report to Council, continue to advocate to the Province that the Region be made whole financially as a result of Bill 23, <i>More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022</i> , and that housing services be reinstated as eligible for funding under the <i>Development Charges Act, 1997</i> .
	2.3 Continue to work with stakeholders, local municipalities, senior levels of government, the development industry and community partners to explore approaches to increase the supply of affordable housing.
	2.4 Seek Council endorsement to defer consideration of a potential Vacant Home Tax to 2024 to allow for additional analysis of emergent Provincial and Federal regulations, economic conditions, opportunities to streamline administration and collaboration with other Ontario municipalities.

Objective	2023 Actions
3. Build community housing and encourage affordable rental housing to meet the needs of low and moderate income households	3.1 Complete construction of Unionville Commons.
	3.2 Seek Council approval of a Community Housing Development Master Plan.
	3.3 Submit planning applications for 62 Bayview Parkway development in the Town of Newmarket.
	3.4 Design and launch a pilot program to support housing providers to develop new community housing in response to Council’s decision in February 2023 to dedicate additional funding to critical social infrastructure.
	3.5 Explore funding opportunities to move from planning to construction at 7045 14th Avenue in the City of Markham.
	3.6 Establish a Municipal Land Contribution Program by finalizing the land transfer criteria and protocol, the municipal land donation guidelines, and identifying the first sites for donation, in response to Council’s February 2021 motion for local municipalities to donate land for affordable housing purposes.
	3.7 Submit investment plan/applications for Rapid Housing Initiative Round 3 funding.
	3.8 Continue advocating for Federal/Provincial capital funding to advance community housing projects identified in the 10-year capital plan.

Goal 2: Help People Find and Keep Housing

Objective	2023 Actions
1. Deliver programs that help residents with low and moderate income living in private market housing keep their homes	1.1 Implement Year 4 of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.
	1.2 Implement new Housing Services Act, 2011 regulatory amendments, including Council approval of a service agreement framework, and reviewing and updating programs and policies to ensure compliance.
	1.3 Continue to implement the consolidated Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program Plan and further enhance data collection through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) to provide greater insight into program outcomes and areas that require further development.
	1.4 Expand the Region's Rapid Rehousing Program by working with emergency housing operators to provide rent assistance to people moving from emergency or transitional housing to longer-term housing and to help people retain their market housing.
2. Support long-term housing stability by strengthening individuals and community housing communities	2.1 Connect subsidized housing wait list applicants, including seniors, to available programs and resources while they wait for housing.
	2.2 Deliver programming and services that support residents' housing stability and wellness.
	2.3 Continue planning and construction for seniors focused hub and community centre at Unionville Commons.
	2.4 Continue to explore opportunities to locate Community and Health Services programs and services and/or establish hubs in new Housing York Inc. builds.
3. Advance prevention programs through continuous improvements to help people at risk of homelessness remain stably housed	3.1 Continue to strengthen prevention and early intervention activities by incorporating best practices from York Region's COVID-19 response. Enhance diversion from emergency housing and explore opportunities to improve financial supports for households, including those in arrears.

Objective	2023 Actions
4. Strengthen homelessness and housing stability services to help people experiencing homelessness to find and keep housing	4.1 Continue to develop a service delivery model for the new men’s multi-service emergency and transitional housing program informed by consultations with service providers, people with lived experience and community stakeholders. A Request for Proposal process will be used to select an operator.
	4.2 Continue to enhance integration of the seasonal shelter programs into the broader homelessness prevention and housing stability system.
	4.3 Provide additional supports for people experiencing homelessness during extreme weather events, including developing and implementing a Heat Relief Strategy.
	4.4 Enhance compliance to operational standards for emergency and transitional housing and explore opportunities to increase access to all programs and services.
	4.5 Monitor Provincial supportive housing system review and analyze the implications on York Region’s Housing with Supports program.
	4.6 Build on the successes of the Community Paramedicine Outreach Response Team by expanding primary care and mental health and addictions supports to more people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
	4.7 Continue to pilot the Emergency Housing Centralized Intake Line and use best practices to inform the development of a permanent service.
	4.8 Fund community services that help residents to find and keep housing through the Community Investment Fund.

Goal 3: Strengthen the Housing and Homelessness System

Objective	2023 Actions
1. Sustain the existing stock of community housing	1.1 Expand the online housing offer process to remaining community housing sites.
	1.2 Build on the upgraded subsidized housing applicant portal to improve the annual update process and increase the proportion of applicants using the portal to approximately 80%.
	1.3 Complete investment plan to allocate Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative and Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative funding for years 2023-24 and 2024-25, with a focus on Regional housing priorities.
	1.4 Provide training for community housing providers to support strong board governance and operations.
2. Build an integrated system to plan and deliver homelessness and housing stability services	2.1 Increase community service provider participation on the By-Name List Community Collaborative Table to enhance client access to appropriate housing options and other supports across the Region.
	2.2 Develop directions/priorities for a Homelessness Service System Plan to address emerging community needs, prioritize resources to focus on early intervention and prevention, and forecast investments and ongoing resources needed for longer-term planning to support York Region residents at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
3. Conduct research, engagement, and knowledge sharing to identify service system gaps and build community capacity in the homelessness and housing stability service system	3.1 Continue to implement lessons learned and best practices gleaned throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure prevention, diversion and emergency housing programs continue to meet the emerging needs of the community.
	3.2 Increase diversion from emergency housing and strengthen supports for youth experiencing homelessness. Continue to implement initiatives identified through the Youth Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stabilization Committee.
	3.3 Support the Community Action Tables in the implementation of actions related to housing stability in the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Objective	2023 Actions
4. Support residents to age in their communities and influence the transformation of the long-term care sector	4.1 Seek Council approval of the proposed 2023 to 2027 York Region Plan to Support Seniors and begin implementation.
	4.2 Expand CP@Clinic to six additional seniors' community housing sites. Community Paramedicine will continue to explore opportunities to support seniors within the community.
	4.3 Influence the proposed amendments to the regulations under the <i>Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021</i> by providing feedback.
	4.4 Share insights and expertise on, and advocate for the needs of, seniors as part of Regional membership on local Ontario Health Teams.