

Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy Summary Series The Strategy (2012)



All Roads Lead to Home: The Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy for Waterloo Region (Strategy) is a guide for the community that supports a shared approach to ending homelessness.

The updated Strategy (2012) summarizes two complementary frameworks:

- **The Policy Framework** (released January 2012) provides guidelines for *thinking* about ending homelessness: the essential elements and other key concepts, who is working on it, what resources are available and key policy directions for the future.
- **The Action Framework** (the current document) supports the community to *take action* to end homelessness by identifying what needs to change, how change should be supported and what measures should be used for evaluating the impact of change over time.

The Strategy (2012) and other background reports are available on the Region of Waterloo website at:
www.regionofwaterloo.ca/socialservices

- A number of additional summary sheets are included in this series. For example:
- Focus on Aboriginal Populations
 - Focus on Economic Homelessness
 - Focus on Immigrants to Canada
 - Focus on Rural Populations
 - Focus on Substance Use
 - Focus on Youth
 - Focus on Older Adults

For more information about housing stability, please visit:

Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group:
www.hhug.ca

Homeless Hub:
www.homelesshub.ca

This document is available in alternative formats upon request.



What Is It?

Who Developed It?

Who Uses It?

Where Are We Going?

POLICY FRAMEWORK

What Guides Us?

With support from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, stakeholders in the housing stability system developed the Strategy and will take a lead role in its implementation. The housing stability system includes organizations, groups and individuals with a mandate to support people who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of housing loss.

The Strategy is intended to be used by all orders of government, businesses, not-for-profits, groups, landlords and residents of Waterloo Region, as **everyone has a role to play in ending homelessness.**

Stakeholders in the housing stability system developed the following vision:
Waterloo Region is an inclusive community where everyone has adequate housing, income and support to make a home.

Housing Stability System Values:
Collaboration – Accessibility – Respect – Excellence (CARE)

- Principles to Guide Action:**
- Focus on housing stability to promote the vision for the future.
 - Promote accessibility to meet people “where they are at”.
 - See adequate housing as a right.
 - Tailor approaches according to strength of “association with homelessness”.
 - Promote strategic investments to end homelessness in Waterloo Region.

Primary Goal of the Strategy:
• To end homelessness in Waterloo Region.

- Secondary Goals for the Housing Stability System:**
1. Support a shared approach to ending homelessness.
 2. Support people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of housing loss to increase housing stability:
 - a) Increase housing retention.
 - b) Reduce the length of time people experience transitional homelessness.
 - c) End persistent homelessness.
 - d) Increase community inclusion.
 3. Strengthen the housing stability system.





How to get involved

Everyone has a role to play in ending homelessness. Below are a few important activities that you can do to help:

- Examine your attitudes and language towards people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of housing loss.
- Talk to people who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of housing loss about their experience.
- Talk with your friends and family about homelessness and housing stability and encourage a respectful attitude.
- Advocate for more resources in the areas of housing, income and support for people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of housing loss. Encourage long-term solutions.
- Volunteer your time to directly support people who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of housing loss.

ACTION FRAMEWORK

How Are We Going To Get There?

The Action Framework identifies 40 actions, organized by four focus areas and eight strategic directions. Within each action, both issues and potential activities are included. The actions are designed to reach the goals identified in the Policy Framework.

Progress with implementation of the Strategy depends on strategic investments and requires dedicated, collaborative effort among *all* orders of government and partners in the community.

How Will We Monitor Our Progress?

An implementation progress report will be released that covers the period January 2011 through to 2013.

Processes to facilitate implementation of the actions, progress monitoring, communication and evaluation activities for these plan(s) beyond 2013 are pending finalization of local implementation plans for the Provincial Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy and the new *Housing Services Act, 2011*.

How Will We Know We Made a Difference?

Interim indicators of collective impact are identified in the Action Framework. Progress with meeting these interim indicators will be part of the 2013 implementation progress report.

How Will We Share What We Learned?

Progress with communicating the release of the updated Strategy will be part of the 2013 implementation progress report.

