

Roadmap to End Homelessness Update

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Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report aligns with Council’s Strategic Plan in the areas of Housing and Creating a Healthier and More Vibrant Community. This report also aligns with the Population Health Priorities of Indigenous Youth, Mental Health, Housing, and Healthy Streets.

This report has no relationship to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

On May 28, 2024, Community Development staff presented the Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030 to City Council, which included 26 recommendations to reach functional zero homelessness through a housing first approach. The Roadmap to End Homelessness was unanimously approved by City Council and endorsed as the City’s official plan to prevent, address, and end homelessness by 2030, through Council Resolution CC2024-130.

Functional zero is a definition referred to internationally to define a dynamic milestone of resolving homelessness in a community. By achieving functional zero, this means a homelessness system has been established, where homelessness becomes rare, brief, and non-recurring. Achieving functional zero homelessness requires a complete system transformation to ensure there is access to housing for all citizens and adequate supports available to maintain housing.

Through recommendations provided in the Roadmap to End Homelessness, the estimated cost to end homelessness in Greater Sudbury, by 2030, is approximately \$350 million, including:

- \$322 million in capital and start-up costs

- \$13.6 million annually in operating costs
- \$11 million annually in additional rent supplements

Recommendations included in the Roadmap to End Homelessness are organized under four strategic pillars, each aligned with the definition of functional zero:

1. Pillar 1 - Homelessness is rare (prevention)
2. Pillar 2 - Homelessness is brief (rapid re-housing/diversion)
3. Pillar 3 - Homelessness is non-recurring (supportive housing and wrap-around services)
4. Pillar 4 - System-level recommendations

The following provides an update on progress to implement recommendations included in the Roadmap to End Homelessness and progress towards achieving functional zero homelessness.

Pillar 1 – Homelessness is rare (prevention)

Recommendations within this pillar include the development of deep-core and affordable housing with additional strategies to increase housing affordability. The development of supportive and affordable housing requires funding from all levels of government.

Since May 2024, the following steps have been taken to implement recommendations within this pillar:

Homelessness Prevention - Business Case

A business case has been submitted for consideration by City Council to increase funding allocated to the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) program by \$200,000 annually. CHPI provides funds to low-income households for homelessness prevention funding including for rental arrears for those facing eviction and last month's rent for those resolving homelessness. This request is to support the expansion of the current CHPI program funding guidelines to meet market demand.

Affordable Housing Development

A funding application has been submitted to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Accelerator Fund Round 2 to accelerate progress in housing development across the community. Key to the application is a Council-approved Action Plan outlining a housing supply growth target, additional targets for multi-unit and affordable housing, as well as initiatives that will be undertaken to help achieve these targets. Funding received could be used to implement the Action Plan, invest in affordable housing, housing-related infrastructure and community-related infrastructure that supports housing.

Development Charges Update

On July 1, 2024, By-law 2024-105 came into effect and implemented several housing related Development Charge exemptions and reductions, in addition to those that were available through the previous Development Charge By-law. Additionally, Council passed resolution CC2024-116 that includes a 3-year development charge moratorium on missing middle homes, including duplexes, triplexes, row and townhouses, and small multi-unit apartments of 30 units or less.

Land Banking Strategy

On May 27, 2024, an update on Phase 2 of the Land Banking Strategy was presented to Council. Through this report, Council directed staff to initiate the Planning Act process to re-zone two City-owned properties at Bancroft and First Avenue in Sudbury, and the northernly portion of the Lionel E Lalonde Centre site in Azilda, to a medium density residential zone, and then initiate the process of declaring the properties surplus, to be added to the City's Affordable Housing Land Bank.

Eviction Prevention partnership with Sudbury Community Legal Clinic

Staff have had initial conversations with the Sudbury Community Legal Clinic to develop Eviction Prevention training and supports. Where training is intended to be delivered to an audience that includes Social Services, Housing Services, Housing Operations and homelessness sector front line staff, ongoing collaboration will take place toward an anticipated program launch in Q1 2025.

Pillar 2 – Homelessness is brief (rapid re-housing/diversion)

Recommendations within this pillar include transitioning to a 24-hour emergency shelter/transitional housing model and establishing additional support programs, all of which will require an “all of government” funding approach. Municipal led initiatives include the establishment of a formalized rapid re-housing program which could be achieved through repurposing of existing funding. The establishment of an identification bank would be subject to a formalized agreement with the Sudbury Community Legal Clinic.

Since May 2024, staff have taken the following steps to implement recommendations within this pillar:

Transitional Housing/Emergency Shelter Development

On September 17, 2024, Council approved the purchase of a building at 307 Cedar Street which was previously used as a youth emergency shelter. This asset is well situated close to the downtown core and is zoned to be used for emergency shelter or transitional housing programming.

Staff have partnered with Elizabeth Fry Society to transition the Safe Harbour House emergency shelter program to 307 Cedar Street from the existing leased Kingsmount location. This will increase the capacity from 10 to 16 shelter beds for the low barrier emergency shelter program for women and persons who identified as non-binary. In addition, 10 shelter beds have been added for emergency shelter services for female and non-binary youth aged 16 to 24 years; for a total of 26 emergency shelter beds at this location.

In partnership with Elizabeth Fry Society, staff have also submitted a funding application to the provincial government to obtain funding for daytime staff positions to transition the emergency shelter program to 24-hour transitional housing. Staff continue to work with the provider to explore potential funding opportunities as they become available.

Extended Hours at Off the Street Emergency Shelter

On October 15, 2024, Council approved a service level increase in the amount of \$110,445 to support the Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin to expand emergency shelter hours at Off the Street Emergency Shelter, from 10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. operating hours to 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m., operating between November 2024 and April 30th, 2025. This provides additional hours for individuals experiencing homelessness to access a warm, safe space, with washrooms, as well as providing staff within the homelessness sector the ability to connect with emergency shelter clients and provide housing supports. Due to staff training, the operation of the extended hours has been shifted to December 9, 2024, to May 31, 2025.

Identification Bank

The Sudbury Community Legal Clinic has agreed to partner with the City to implement and deliver an Identification Bank program, which will allow persons experiencing homelessness to safely store and access their identification. This project is currently in development and is expected to launch by Q1 2025.

Pillar 3 – Homelessness is non-recurring (supportive housing and wrap-around services)

Recommendations within this pillar include investments in additional supportive housing programs including programs for priority populations; converting emergency shelter programs to transitional housing; and strengthening community engagement in social housing programs.

Since May 2024, staff have taken the following steps to implement recommendations within this pillar:

Supportive Housing - Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub Application

Staff have submitted a funding application to the Ministry of Health under the Call for Proposals to host 1 of 10 Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs across the province. These Hubs include a mandatory component to provide supportive housing to individuals experiencing homelessness. This application for Provincial funding for the Lorraine Street Transitional Housing Project and Lotus program (formerly Assertive Community Treatment Team-ACTT), and was submitted in collaboration with Health Sciences North, Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association – Sudbury/Manitoulin, Monarch Recovery Services, and the Northern Initiative for Social Action (NISA). An approved HART application would cover the costs associated with the startup, and operation of the Lorraine Street Project, for a trial period of three (3) years.

Strengthen Engagement in Community Housing

There has been ongoing work at 1960 Paris Street community housing building under the recommendation to strengthen engagement approaches within Greater Sudbury's Community Housing units, including:

- Live Love Louder collaboration with youth living in a community housing building to paint murals in the lobby
- Ongoing tenant engagement with community partners including March of Dimes, Restorative Justice and Our Children, Our Future
- Free summer programming for children aged 6-12
- Intergenerational events with youth and seniors
- Education Fair held by Restorative Justice to engage with tenants regarding adult education opportunities with various school boards
- Clean up events at both Paris Street and Louis Street community housing complexes.
- Housing staff and Client Navigators organized pop up events to support tenants with the completion of annual reviews and reporting of maintenance issues

Advocacy – Investment in Supportive Housing and Social Assistance

On August 13, 2024, through Council Resolution CC2024-196, in alignment with calls to action from the Association of Municipalities in Ontario (AMO), City Council passed a motion to advocate to Federal and Provincial levels of government to address the growing homelessness crisis related to homeless encampments. These calls to action include investments in deeply affordable housing, supportive housing, and improvements to the income security system.

Pillar 4- System-level Recommendations

This pillar included recommendations to strengthen the existing system of services including the establishment of a Health, Homelessness, Housing Planning and Operations Table, increasing trauma-informed approaches within the provision of support services, the development of a workforce strategy and an Advisory Group for people with lived experience of homelessness, and the development of strategies to support the healing and well-being of Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness and those at-risk.

Since May 2024, staff have taken the following steps to implement recommendations within this pillar:

Health, Homelessness, Housing Planning and Operations Table

Staff have taken initial steps to implement this table with key partners, including the development of a draft Terms of Reference and discussion of membership. An initial meeting is expected to occur in Q1 2025.

Trauma-informed Approaches

Trauma informed training is being organized through the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness for Children and Social Services, Housing Services, Housing Operations, and homelessness sector front line staff Training sessions have been scheduled for January 2025.

Indigenous Healing and Well-being

A funding application was submitted to Health Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund in partnership with Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre to provide Indigenous-led harm reduction outreach services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Progress Toward Functional Zero

As of May 2024, when the Roadmap to End Homelessness was approved, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on the By-Name List was 242. As of October 31, 2024, that number changed to 301. This represents an 24% increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Greater Sudbury.

While homelessness continues to increase, reductions are anticipated given the ongoing focus for increased affordable housing in the community and projects becoming available in the coming months. These include the Lorraine Street Transitional Housing Project, with 40-units, and Sparks Street Housing Project (Seniors), with 14 units; for a total of 54 units completed by the end of Q4 2024.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to seek opportunities to implement the recommendations from the Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030 and will provide further update to Council in June 2025.

Resources Cited

Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=53564>

Housing Accelerator Fund Round 2

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=54380>

Affordable Housing Land Banking Strategy Phase 2 Update

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=53497>

City Council Resolution – Homelessness Crisis

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=54609>

Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements Update

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=55028>

Winter 2024-25 Unsheltered Homelessness Service Enhancements

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=54696>

Development Charges By-Law

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=53544>