

Be Part of the Solution.

Addressing housing instability
and homelessness in Huron.



HEART TO HOME

Preventing & Addressing Homelessness in Huron County

Huron Heart to Home

Huron Heart to Home is comprised of County of Huron staff who are focused on preventing and addressing homelessness in Huron County. These staff connect people to community, local organizations, and resources that can help a person access long term housing. Together with community partners, Huron Heart to Home manages the Out of the Cold emergency shelter, and are working on developing a Housing First strategy for Huron County that would reduce, or eliminate, the County's dependency on costly emergency solutions in the future. Learn more at:

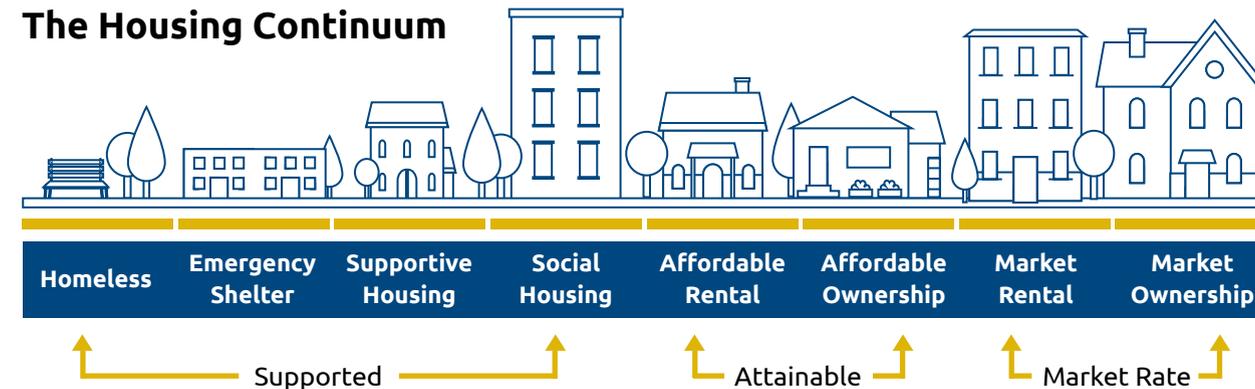
www.HuronCountyConnects.ca/Heart-to-Home

Fundamental Right to Housing

The Corporation of the County of Huron is dedicated to enhancing the social and economic well-being of Huron County through the creation and preservation of affordable housing.

The County supports an individual's fundamental right to housing without discrimination as protected under Ontario's Human Rights Code.

The Housing Continuum



Housing First Strategy

A Housing First approach to homelessness puts a primary focus on helping people who are experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless, quickly access safe, affordable, and stable housing by providing permanent housing with wrap-around support services as quickly as possible.

Supportive Housing

A Housing First strategy needs to include supportive housing options. Supportive Housing is a home plus on-site staff and programs that work to support the resident's needs. Supports may include meals, counseling, employment services, and more.

A dispersed model of Supportive Housing

The County of Huron is working to develop a dispersed or 'scattered-site' model of Supportive Housing. This means a smaller number of units are spread among multiple buildings or properties in multiple communities. This method of supportive housing offers significant integration opportunities within the broader community and allows individuals more opportunity to remain in their own community.



Single units within larger mixed use buildings are being supported.

What we're doing to *Be Part of the Solution.*

According to the [Homeless Hub](#) there are three main ways to address homelessness:

- 1. Prevention:** Stopping people from becoming homeless in the first place.
- 2. Emergency Response:** Providing emergency supports like shelter, food, and day programs, while someone is homeless.
- 3. Housing, Accommodation, and Supports:** Providing housing and ongoing supports as a means of moving people out of homelessness.

The County of Huron is working with many other local groups and organizations to prevent and address homelessness in our community. Here's how:



The Stability Team

The Stability Team are specially trained staff who work directly with people in crisis. These caring professionals help connect people who are homeless, or who are at risk of becoming homeless, with the various services and supports they require such as a safe place to sleep, food, hygiene products (such as soap and feminine products), warm clothing, healthcare services, and more.



Huron Out of the Cold: Heart to Home

The County of Huron partners with [Choices for Change](#) and [CMHA Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services](#) to provide an emergency cold weather shelter, located at Lakeshore United Church in Goderich.

This shelter is managed by the Stability Team who are specially trained in trauma informed care, substance use, and mental health services and provides guests with free and safe overnight accommodation, meals and additional supports.



Enumeration and By Name List

The enumeration project is a week long event, that takes place every two years, where people in Huron County who are experiencing homelessness can add their names to a list to be identified and counted. Through this process, staff become more aware of who, and how many, people in our community need supportive services. The process enables homelessness to be tracked to see if it is growing or shrinking over time. Results from previous enumeration projects can be found on the County's website: www.HuronCounty.ca/housing



Communications

There are many myths and falsehoods about homelessness. The County of Huron's Communication Team makes sure that people in Huron County have access to facts, data, and learning resources that help people understand the difference between what's true and what's not. To learn more visit: HuronCounty.ca/housing



Coordinated Action

County of Huron staff are creating a *Huron County Homelessness Coordinated Access System*. They are creating a plan for groups to work together better. This plan will be shared with organizations working to prevent and address homelessness in Huron County.



Prevention Programs

The County of Huron runs many programs that are designed to stop people from becoming homeless. Some of these programs include owning and operating 415 rent-geared-to-income apartment units, as well as a variety of programs for both landlords and tenants.



Financial Support

Sometimes the best way to stop a person from becoming homeless is to support them with funds to help them pay for the things they need so that they can continue to afford to live in their current home. The County of Huron works with other levels of government to deliver financial aid programs, such as Housing Allowances, Ontario Works and the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit, to the people who need them.



Supportive Housing

Supportive Housing is a home that has staff and programs located on-site to help the people living within. The staff and programs may provide things like healthy meals, on-site security, help in overcoming addictions, medical and mental health services, life skills coaching, financial assistance and employment assistance.



Future Planning

The County of Huron's Planning department is addressing the community's need for more affordable housing by promoting and permitting more dense housing developments. For example, Additional Residential Units are permitted to be added to existing residential properties; this helps to create units which are more affordable.

Report to the Community on Homelessness

The County of Huron continues to work diligently in addressing the complexities associated with homelessness, poverty and housing instability in Huron County, and implementing both immediate and long-term solutions. In an effort to keep the community informed, actions currently being taken to prevent and address homelessness in Huron County are presented below.

<p>Out of the Cold: Heart to Home</p> <p>Emergency Shelter November - April</p> 	<p>Enumeration & By Name List</p> <p>The next enumeration project will take place in November 2021.</p> 	<p>Stability Team</p> <p>Specially trained staff who work directly with individuals in crisis, connecting them to the services and supports they require.</p> 	<p>Communications</p> <p>Keeping the community informed.</p> 
<p>Coordinated Action</p> <p>A Huron County Homelessness Coordinated Access System is currently under development.</p> 	<p>Homelessness Prevention</p> <p>Programs such as Rent-Geared-to-Income units, landlord and tenant programs, and much more.</p> 	<p>Financial Support</p> <p>Such as Ontario Works, Pathways to Self-Sufficiency, Canada Ontario Housing Benefit and more.</p> 	<p>Supportive Housing</p> <p>Exploring and developing opportunities for a dispersed model of supportive housing.</p> 

Find out more about what Huron County is doing to prevent & address homelessness: www.HuronCounty.ca/housing
Read the 2020 *Housing and Homelessness Annual Report*.
Learn more about how a *Housing First model* can prevent and address homelessness in Huron.



Learn more about what the County of Huron is doing to prevent and address homelessness by reading the *Report to the Community on Homelessness* found on HuronCounty.ca/housing

Five ways you can *Be Part of the Solution.*

1. Become informed and don't spread false information.

There are many myths and falsehoods around the topic of homelessness and how people can become homeless. Learning more about homelessness and housing instability can help increase understanding. Explore the resources found at the end of this booklet for more information.

2. Speak up! Advocate for those experiencing homelessness, hurt and hunger in your community.

Sadly, people facing homelessness are often subject to various forms of discrimination. Poverty, physical and mental health, and substance use concerns are not reasons to deny a person's fundamental right to housing without discrimination as protected under Ontario's Human Rights Code.

If you hear inflammatory language or witness discriminatory actions, speak up! Advocate for those in the community who may be more vulnerable. If you're unsure if a statement is valid or discriminatory, try taking the *cringe test*, found on [HuronCounty.ca/housing](https://www.huroncounty.ca/housing)

3. Welcome Supportive and Affordable Housing in your community.

There's a term you may hear when affordable housing developments are being planned near you, it's called 'YIMBY'. Otherwise known as, Yes, In My Backyard!

To *Be Part of the Solution* it is essential to welcome developments like these in your own neighbourhood. It takes an entire community, including multiple levels of government, many stakeholders, neighbourhoods, and the public to create a welcoming atmosphere for housing that improves life for everyone in our community.

Read *Huron is a Caring Community*, found on [HuronCounty.ca/housing](https://www.huroncounty.ca/housing) to learn more about why supportive and affordable housing is good for your community.

4. Consider donating locally.

Visit [HuronCounty.ca/housing](https://www.huroncounty.ca/housing) to learn how you can support the Huron Out of the Cold: Heart to Home shelter. Consider donating to a local agency that's meaningful to you and supports our community's most vulnerable citizens.

5. Participate in local events that support vulnerable people.

Events like *The Coldest Night of the Year* are a great way to get involved. The Coldest Night of the Year is a fun, family-friendly fundraising walk that supports local non profit partners who provide essential care and service for people experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger. Learn more: www.cnoy.org

Resources

Housing instability and homelessness in Huron

Huron County Housing

huroncounty.ca/social-services/housing/#homelessness

2020 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report

huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2020-Housing-Homelessness-Annual-Report.pdf

Huron Heart to Home

huroncountyconnects.ca/huron-heart-to-home

Take the Cringe Test

huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/CringeTest.pdf

Huron is a Caring Community

huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/HC-is-a-Caring-Community.pdf

2018 Enumeration Report

huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Enumeration-Report.pdf

2021 Report to the Community on Homelessness Infographic

huroncounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Report-to-the-Community.pdf

Housing instability and homelessness in Ontario

Perth-Huron United Way: Unignorable

perthhuron.unitedway.ca/unignorable-issues/#unignorable-homelessness

Ontario Housing Strategy

ontario.ca/housingstrategy

Housing instability and homelessness in Canada

The Homelessness Hub

homelesshub.ca

Homelessness 101

homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101/causes-homelessness



**Learn more about what you can do
to Be Part of the Solution.**

HuronCountyConnects.ca/Heart-to-Home

