

To:	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	July 9, 2020
Subject / Report No:	HDR-CW-07-20
Title:	10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan – 2020 Annual Report
Prepared by:	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing Josh Gibson, Housing Programs Manager
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented;

Recommendation

1. That report HDR-CW-07-20 Grey County Housing and Homelessness Plan – 2019 Annual Report be received.

Executive Summary

Each year an annual report on the activities undertaken in support of Grey County’s 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan is provided to the province, council and the public. This report outlines the projects and community support provided through the housing and homelessness plan in 2019.

Background and Discussion

The Grey County 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan outlines the vision and direction that forms a strategy to improve the housing and homelessness system in Grey County. The funding for the plan is through the Investment in Affordable Housing Program and the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative program through the province and Grey County. This plan coordinates Grey County and community agencies to provide services to Grey County’s most vulnerable residents. Services are used by families, single parent families, seniors, youth, singles, people with disabilities and working families. The complete plan can be found on the County website at <https://www.grey.ca/affordable-housing>.

Highlights from 2019

- ❖ Strategy 1: Create More Affordable Housing 

- Groundwork was laid for a new affordable housing build in partnership with Owen Sound Housing Company, 59 new rental units to be constructed in Phase 3 of the Odawa Heights project.
- 15 unit mixed affordable and market rent apartment build completed in Durham.
- Grey County provides rent subsidies to the Canadian Mental Health Association to provide options for clients that have progressed through their housing programs and move toward private landlord agreements.
- Participate and support the Grey Bruce Poverty Task Force, specifically the Housing Action Group to educate and support both tenants and landlords with the hopes of more successful tenancies.
- The Homeownership Program provides a 5% down payment program towards homeownership. In 2019 the program assisted 10 households purchase a home with a total of \$92,345 in funding

❖ Strategy 2: Preserve Existing Stock



- The Ontario Renovates program allows residents to stay in their homes by providing a forgivable loan for repairs and renovations. In 2019, \$212,933 in funding was used for items such as roofs, windows and doors and heating systems. Over 20 households were provided urgent repairs through this program.
- Operate and maintain 997 units of community housing throughout Grey County, continue to provide supports to tenants, build community and maintain our buildings.
- 10-year capital plan commitment to sustain and improve community housing, focusing on energy efficiency, safety and renewal.



Strategy 3: Reduce Chronic Homelessness

- Emergency housing services were extended to 24 hours a day through a partnership with the YMCA, Grey County, and 211. Additionally, a local landlord and Owen Sound Police formed a partnership to provide emergency housing after hours.
- Sustainable Housing Benefit provides funding to residents of Grey County to maintain or find affordable housing. In 2019, over 900 requests for funding totaling \$478,617 were provided to residents of Grey County on items such as last month's rent, utility arrears and rental arrears.
- YMCA Community Services Emergency Housing Program provides services and supports to residents of Grey County in immediate need or at risk of losing their housing. YMCA Community services funding was increased for a much-needed additional position to assist with growing demand for services and work with clients that require extra assistance.
- Grey County provided funding to the Giiwe project through M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Centre. The project aims to increase awareness in community and with service delivery agencies to improve service design and delivery and foster collaborative work with the leadership of Indigenous-led organizations around housing and poverty related issues. Giiwe support also helped to finalize the Rent Safe Project.



❖ Strategy 4: Increase Supportive Housing

- Grey County housing partners with Canadian Mental Health Association to provide outreach services to tenants of Grey County Housing to maintain and enhance their housing.
- Grey County supported Safe n Sound by providing funding for an Outreach Worker to assist tenants living in their transitional housing units and provide community referrals.
- Community Enhancement Fund provides small grants to community programs to provide resources for people at risk of homelessness. In 2019, funding was provided to community partners to provide meals, transportation and other items and supports. Organizations include: M'Wikwedong's Giiwe project, Southgate Community Connections, Safe N sound, Community Meal Meaford, YMCA Community Initiatives, The Women's Centre Grey and Bruce, O'Share, Beaver Valley Outreach, Holstein Cowtown Lunch, and The Deck youth program.
- Grey County supports on average 70 residents a month with transitional housing through the Housing with Related Supports Program. Grey County assisted with financial subsidy for over 25,000 nights worth of accommodations totaling \$598,826. These supportive housing facilities provide laundry, medication distribution, meals and assistance for residents who need some help with managing day to day needs.

Next Steps

- Community support system for people experiencing homelessness, focusing on those experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Support the hiring of a project coordinator for a homelessness by-name list.

- Provide transitional units for chronically homeless individuals who participate in the coordinated by-name list program.
- Use lessons learned from Pandemic restrictions to provide roadmap for new programming and procedures.
- Develop a strategic plan for the development of affordable housing.
- Continue to provide equal or better level of services to residents of Grey County.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

Annual public report required by Municipal Affairs and Housing

Financial and Resource Implications

Program funding from the Community Homelessness Prevention Program (\$1,816,494) and the Investment in Affordable Housing Program (\$1,325,300).

Relevant Consultation

Internal:

External:

Appendices and Attachments

[HDR-CW-11-19 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Update](#)

[HDR-CW-06-19 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Year in Review \(2019\)](#)