

# Addressing Homelessness in UCLG and Lanark: Issues and Opportunities

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# Homelessness & The Broader Housing Context

## THE HOUSING CONTINUUM



## Categories of Homelessness

Unsheltered	Chronic homelessness	Emergency sheltered	Provisionally accommodated	At-risk of homelessness
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# Existing conditions: Leeds and Grenville

## Homelessness Needs

- ▶ Limited availability of accurate data
- ▶ UCLG identified 30 homeless people in 2018 via PIT count
  - Most were from Brockville (70%)
  - People were homeless for an average of 168 days
  - Gender-wise, 53% were men and 43% were women
  - 43% received income from OW or ODSP (social assistance)
  - Most homeless people were under 35 years old
  - 76% had been homeless 1-3 times in the past year; 8% had been homeless 4-6 times and 16% had been homeless 7-10 times
- ▶ Recently another PIT count was undertaken, results will help to inform trending over time

## Homelessness Services

- ▶ Most services are provided in large centres
- ▶ Funding is provided for staff at social service agencies
- ▶ Ontario Works is able to assist provisionally housed and people at-risk of being homeless
- ▶ More supports are necessary for those experiencing chronic homelessness
- ▶ CHPI and SSRF initiatives have injected new funding into the system to support needs
- ▶ Various homelessness solutions have been/are being used:
  - warming centre
  - emergency apartments located in the community
  - Homelessness Team partnership at LLGAMH
  - LLGAMH working with police in Brockville & Gananoque

# Working in a system context

## Homeless Service System



- **Funders/Regulators**
  - Set legislation and policy
  - Act as overall system stewards
  - Provide funding (directly or via SMs)
  
- **Service System Managers**
  - Plan for and manage local service system
  - Deliver and administer programs
  - Disburse funds to delivery agencies
  
- **Service/Support Providers**
  - Deliver services to those in need
  - Secure funds/resources
  - Coordinate with other providers
  
- **Housing/Accommodation Providers**
  - Provide housing/supports to those in need
  - Secure funds/resources
  - Coordinate with other providers

# Service System Mapping





# Emerging Issues/Gaps

- ▶ Increase in the need for mental health and substance use supports
- ▶ People who experience chronic homelessness require more supports due to the complexity of their needs
- ▶ Supports are not available across the entire service area
- ▶ Supports are not always offered on a sustained basis
- ▶ System can be confusing and difficult to navigate for those in need
- ▶ More system and inter-agency coordination is needed to align efforts of service providers

# Opportunities and Initiatives

- ▶ The continued pursuit of new initiatives and implementation of new ideas
- ▶ Addressing rural level funding for urban-type issues
- ▶ Supporting the use of flexible non-shelter approaches
- ▶ Broadening current landlord partnerships and exploring new landlord opportunities
- ▶ Implementing the by-name list
- ▶ Managing multiple stakeholder tables
- ▶ Improving system awareness among providers

# Planning for the road ahead

Directional strategies and collaborating on next steps



# Re-framing the discussion: Guiding principles

- ▶ Need an understanding/awareness of supports and services that are currently being provided
- ▶ Recognition that homeless solutions are more than just housing solutions
- ▶ Acknowledgement that Service Managers like UCLG and Lanark are one partner within the broader system and cannot fix all problems
- ▶ Ownership of the problem is shared - community problems require community solutions

# Directional strategies: Priorities for planning

- ▶ Increasing priority services to better respond to needs and gaps
- ▶ Coordinating responses to complex cases (i.e. individuals who experience chronic homelessness)
- ▶ Improving access and continuity of services
- ▶ Having a more transparent and user-friendly system
- ▶ Coordinating and collaborating efforts for better outcomes

# Working towards solutions: Dialogue for collective action

## Pursuing practices:

- ▶ Implementing the by-name list
- ▶ Maintaining/establishing a homelessness solutions table
- ▶ Coordinating resources to facilitate a functional system
- ▶ Maintaining a 'Housing first' approach
- ▶ Continuing to support emergency apartments
- ▶ Pursuing public/private partnerships

## Other opportunities:

- ▶ Helping to implement community safety and well-being plans
- ▶ Considering alternative housing forms:
  - Rooming house/studio units
  - Adaptive reuse

# Questions



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