

## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

# Homelessness Prevention Program Annual Report

**To:** Warden and Members of County Council

**From:** Director of Human Services

## RECOMMENDATION

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1. That County Council receive Report HS 2025-09, entitled “Homelessness Prevention Program Annual Report” as information, and approve the 2025-2026 Homelessness Prevention Plan funding allocations as set out herein.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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- The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the 2024-2025 Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) expenditures, as well as the proposed investment plan for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- The County received a total of \$2,922,000 under the HPP for 2024-2025 and received the same allocation for 2025-2026.
- The majority of the 2024-2025 funding was utilized to support emergency shelter services, supportive housing, and community partners that provide supports and services to individuals at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.
- The HPP Investment Plan for 2025-2026 is due to the province by August 18, 2025, and is required to be approved by Council.

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

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Upon Council's approval of the 2025–2026 HPP Investment Plan, staff will submit the final plan to the province. Staff will also issue a Call for Applications for up to \$500,000 under the Community Outreach and Support Services funding category and enter into funding agreements with community partners to support the delivery of programs and services for individuals at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

## Financial Impact

There will be no financial impact to the 2025 budget as the HPP program is entirely funded by the province. The HPP funding allocation aligns with the grant included in the 2025 Budget.

## Communications

Once the proposed 2025-2026 investment plan has been approved by Council, staff will proceed with notifying community partners of the proposed Call for Applications process.



## 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

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Oxford County Council approved the **2023-2026 Strategic Plan** on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council's vision of "Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future." These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendation in this report supports the following strategic goals.

### Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
<b>Promoting community vitality</b>	<b>Enhancing environmental sustainability</b>	<b>Fostering progressive government</b>
Goal 1.1 – 100% Housed Goal 1.3 – Community health, safety and well-being		Goal 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

## DISCUSSION

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### Background

The HPP is a provincially funded program that assists Service Managers (SMs) in providing support services and emergency accommodations for individuals who are at risk of, or

experiencing, homelessness. The overall objective of the program is to support SMs in preventing, addressing, and reducing homelessness.

The HPP is designed to be flexible and streamlined, enabling Service Managers (SMs) to direct funding where community needs are greatest and where it can have the most significant impact on preventing and reducing homelessness. The overall vision of the HPP is to provide SMs with the resources necessary to establish a coordinated housing and homelessness system. This system aims to ensure that individuals at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness have access to the housing and support services necessary to obtain and maintain stable housing and achieve better outcomes. For Council's information, SMs are required to implement and maintain a By-Name List (BNL) to be eligible for HPP funding. The County is currently in compliance with this requirement.

On July 23, 2025, the County confirmation from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) that our 2025-2026 allocation is consistent with the previous year, being \$2,922,000. A copy of the letter from MMAH is included as Attachment 1.

## Comments

The HPP framework prescribes service categories under which SMs are required to allocate funding and report on outputs. The service categories include:

1. Supportive Housing: housing assistance with individualized, flexible, and ongoing support services (for example, mental health and addictions supports; assistance with daily living; and other services). For the purposes of HPP, this category includes transitional housing and residential services homes.
2. Community and Outreach Support Services: services and supports, such as community outreach and food security programs, case management and referrals for individuals on the By-Name List, ongoing support and services such as counselling, medical care, or assistance with daily living for people not receiving long-term housing assistance.
3. Housing Assistance: short-term/emergency assistance, non-financial housing assistance, and long-term housing assistance such as rent supplements and housing allowances for individuals not receiving ongoing support services.
4. Emergency Shelter Solutions: expenses directly related to operating and staffing emergency shelters (including permanent, temporary and motel rooms).

In addition, SMs are able to allocate a percentage of their annual allocation to administration costs, which include expenses not directly related to delivering services and support such as back-office administration, professional services and office expenses. The percentage of allowable administration costs was reduced from 7.5% to 5% in the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

## 2024-2025 HPP Outcomes

In 2024-2025, HPP was used to support a number of community partners who provide services to individuals at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness in our community. Table 1 provides an overview of how the annual funding allocation was allocated by service category.

Table 1: 2024 – 2025 HPP Expenditures by Category

HPP Service Categories	Planned Financial Expenditures	Actual Financial Expenditures
<b>Supportive Housing</b>	\$615,000	\$421,848
<b>Community Outreach and Support Services</b>	675,900	942,291
<b>Housing Assistance</b>	450,000	406,435
<b>Emergency Shelter Solutions</b>	1,035,000	1,005,326
<b>Administration</b>	146,100	146,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,922,000</b>	<b>\$2,922,000</b>

Throughout the year, funding allocations are adjusted based on local needs. In some cases, planned initiatives may not be implemented due to a variety of factors, and the associated funds are reallocated to alternative projects. The most significant variances in 2024–2025 can be attributed to the following:

- Supportive Housing: At the beginning of 2024, one of the County’s long-standing supportive housing providers, Sunfair Living, chose to discontinue its supportive housing services. This resulted in a slight decrease in the associated allocation. In response, staff were able to engage a new provider, Langdon Retirement Villa, to address this gap.
- Community Outreach and Support Services: Staff focused on encampment response efforts, which included providing additional support resources through community partners such as the Canadian Mental Health Association (Thames Valley) and the Oxford County Community Health Centre (OCCHC). These partners worked in tandem with the County’s Community Access Navigator to ensure that individuals living in precarious situations received the support needed to access services and appropriate housing.
- Emergency Shelter Solutions: As the County received an additional \$202,500 in funding through the Encampment Response Initiative, there was a slight reduction in the Emergency Shelter Solution allocation.

Further details regarding the 2024-2025 service category allocations include:

- Creation of a County-wide outreach team, which includes staff from the Urban municipalities, as well as assistance from community partner organizations.
- Continued support for rent and utility arrears for residents, food banks, supportive housing, outreach services and BNL activities.
- Continued support to our community partners who support individuals at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness, including, but not limited to, CMHATV, Salvation Army, Operation Sharing, Indwell, United Way, OCCHC and supportive housing providers.
- Outreach and support services assistance for approximately 680 unique individuals.
- With assistance through HPP, 58 individuals that were experiencing homelessness were able to remain housed for longer than 12 months.

- With assistance through HPP, 169 at individuals that were at risk of homelessness were able to retain housing for longer than 12 months.

### **2025-2026 Planned HPP Expenditures**

SMs are required to submit an HPP Investment Plan outlining intentions for allocating HPP funding amongst the various service categories. In doing so, SMs are encouraged to consider how HPP investments will:

- Support a shift away from emergency responses towards prevention and permanent housing to contribute to a reduction in chronic homelessness; and,
- Support priority populations who may be at greater risk of homelessness (for example, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and individuals transitioning from Provincial Institutions)

With consideration for these considerations, Table 2 outlines the planned expenditures for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**Table 2: 2025-2026 HPP Planned Expenditures**

<b>HPP Service Categories</b>	<b>Planned Financial Expenditures</b>
<b>Supportive Housing</b>	\$550,000
<b>Community Outreach and Support Services (Call for Applications)</b>	500,000
<b>Community Outreach and Support Services (Continued security &amp; encampment response)</b>	345,000
<b>Housing Assistance</b>	370,000
<b>Emergency Shelter Solutions</b>	1,010,900
<b>Administration (5%)</b>	146,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,922,000</b>

In support of the Homelessness Response Strategy, as adopted by Council on March 26, 2025, staff are proposing to allocate up to \$500,000 to Community Outreach and Support Services, for the purpose of inviting proposals from community partners that are focused on transitioning individuals out of homelessness.

The remaining planned allocations fall in line with the expenditures from previous funding years, and with the commitments that we currently have in place for emergency shelter services and supportive housing agreements.

For Council's information, SMs are required to report back to the province on a quarterly basis. The province released a performance indicator guide to SMs that outlines the performance indicators developed to monitor and track progress on achievements of HPP outcomes,

including measuring a reduction in homelessness. For each performance indicator, data elements will be reported annually on unique households assisted, BNL data and breakdowns of provincial priority groups (Chronic Homelessness, Youth, Indigenous and Transitions from Provincial Institutions). The data collected through the performance indicators will help inform gaps in services and supports in the County for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness that can be used for advocacy efforts with the province.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

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While HPP funding helps alleviate some of the financial pressures associated with delivering programs and services for individuals at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness, it is not sufficient to meet the current demand across the homelessness service system. Ongoing financial support is required from all levels of government to address system-wide gaps, particularly to support the development of transitional and supportive housing, and to achieve the province's goal of reducing homelessness. Without additional and sustained investment, SMS continue to face challenges in maintaining existing programs, scaling up effective interventions, and responding to emerging needs in local communities.

The lack of affordable and supportive housing options continues to place strain on emergency services, emergency shelter systems, and other crisis response agencies. A coordinated and adequately funded approach is essential to build capacity within the system, support long-term housing stability, and improve health and social outcomes for vulnerable populations.

## **SIGNATURES**

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### **Report author:**

Original signed by

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Rebecca Smith, MPA, MCIP, RPP  
Director of Human Services

### **Approved for submission:**

Original signed by

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Benjamin R. Addley  
Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENT**

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Attachment 1: 2025-26 Confirmed Funding Allocation for the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), July 23, 2025