



SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

REPORT TO:	WARDEN AND LAMBTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT:	HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND SOCIAL PLANNING
PREPARED BY:	Ian Hanney, Manager
REVIEWED BY:	Melissa Fitzpatrick, General Manager Stéphane Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer
MEETING DATE:	September 3, 2025
SUBJECT:	Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (“**MMAH**”) notified Consolidated Municipal Service Managers of the introduction of the new Homelessness Prevention Program (“**HPP**”) that would consolidate and replace several existing provincial programs that aim to prevent, address, and reduce homelessness, including chronic homelessness. The new HPP was made effective April 1, 2022.

The HPP drives progress in addressing chronic homelessness through the broad range of local homelessness prevention and supportive housing activities. Funding provides housing assistance and support services to vulnerable populations to prevent chronic homelessness and support individuals to remain stably housed over time. It also provides municipalities with the necessary flexibility to fund capital projects and provides longer-term rental assistance as appropriate. A fulsome annual report and presentation was provided to Council in July 2025 that detailed the use and outcomes of these funds as one component of the Homelessness Prevention budget.

On July 29, 2025, the County of Lambton received its confirmed HPP funding allocation for the year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$5,615,600. This funding is consistent with the funding announcement received in 2023. The allocation is unchanged from the previous two years.

DISCUSSION

Through HPP funding, the County of Lambton Social Services Division will continue to fund various community and internal initiatives that aim to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness. The goals of the HPP align with ongoing work and goals to ensure everyone in Lambton County has an affordable, suitable and adequate home.

The HPP builds on the provincial government mandate to maintain a local By-Name List of individuals and families experiencing homelessness as a tool to measure anticipated major indicators such as placements into more permanent housing and retention of housing. The Lambton County By-Name List enables staff to apply common intake, assessment, referral and matching processes for households experiencing homelessness, furthering the community capacity to follow best practices and apply equitable housing and homelessness services to those in need.

Service Managers are required to submit an annual Investment Plan for review and approval by MMAH. This Investment Plan must also be approved by the Service Manager's local Council.

The Investment Plan is comprised of two parts:

1. A financial forecast and outline of the anticipated quarterly spending in the upcoming fiscal year and projected number of households assisted for the program year across all HPP service categories; and,
2. The HPP Proposed Plan, which provides written details on the proposed use of funds, including information on the types of services and activities that will be funded for each service category. Below is a summary of the proposed funding allocation.

Community Outreach and Supportive Services - \$538,478

- Staffing to support tenants at risk of homelessness or requiring additional community supports.
- Transitional housing supports offered by community partners to ensure successful tenancies.
- Food security.
- Community Connectors services offered by community partners to assist individuals and families to find and retain housing.

Emergency Shelter Solutions - \$414,904

- Provide base funding to the Inn of the Good Shepherd for the Good Shepherd's Lodge and The Haven youth shelter.
- Provide additional funds to the Inn of the Good Shepherd for operations at the Out of the Cold overflow shelter.

Housing Assistance - \$1,740,194

- Funding for long-term rent supplements to ensure tenants have financial assistance to remain housed.
- Funding for rent and utility arrears to ensure tenants remain housed, provided to community agencies and internal County-delivered programs.
- Funding for the Landlord Engagement position to work with landlords to deliver the rent supplement program.
- Additional funds to support last month's rent and transitioning costs for participants of the Short-Term Shelter program experiencing homelessness.

Supportive Housing - \$2,641,244

- Funding to the domiciliary hostels to provide supports, meals, etc. to 30 individuals.
- Funding to Lambton Elderly Outreach to provide supportive housing within Retirement Homes in the County.
- Funding to community agencies to provide supports to ensure individuals retain their tenancies, including mental health supports, youth supports, and life skills training.
- Funding to provide rent supplements along with support services through various County programs.

Administration - \$280,780

- Funding to support key operations, including the local lived/living experience tables through honoraria, transportation, and project materials.
- Funding to support staff positions, which handle data, reporting, and IT needs.
- Funding to support professional services for developing Supportive Housing projects and a long-term affordable housing strategy.

The total HPP funding is \$5,615,600, comprised of \$5,334,820 for operating expenses and \$280,780 for administration (5% of allocated costs as permitted by funding guidelines).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The HPP is 100% funded through MMAH. The HPP allocation is \$5,615,600 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year for the County of Lambton. These funds will be allocated to existing initiatives that meet the directives of this program and address the goals of increasing prevention of and driving reductions in chronic homelessness. There is no impact to the County levy.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with the General Manager of Social Services, and the Manager of Housing Services. Consultations with community service providers will continue as needed.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The activities of the Division support the Community Development Area of Effort #3 in the County of Lambton's Strategic Plan, specifically:

- Strengthening the County's advocacy and lobbying efforts with other levels of government to raise the profile of the County and its needs to secure improved senior government supports, funding, grants, and other resources to meet emerging infrastructure and service needs;

- Consulting with the community and stakeholders on ways to increase housing options and affordability, and innovative programs and initiatives that focus on poverty reduction and promote social belonging;
- Supporting the development of a variety of affordable housing to meet demand;
- Implementing, monitoring and updating community health and wellness-related plans and priorities, including, but not limited to, the *Housing and Homelessness Plan*, *Community Safety & Well-Being Plan*, the Long-Term Care division's mission, vision, and values, *Age Friendly Community Planning* framework, Lambton Public Health's strategic priorities, *Lambton Drug & Alcohol Strategy*, *Lambton EMS Master Plan*, and *Child Care and Early Years 5-Year Service System Plan*; and
- Advocating for, and supporting access to, mental health and addiction services.

CONCLUSION

Work will continue under the HPP to build system capacity to prevent homelessness and drive reductions in chronic homelessness. Local funding allocation beyond 2025-2026 is unknown at this time. County of Lambton staff, in close partnership with local service providers, will continue to work to meet the drastically elevated need in Lambton for housing and homelessness supports and services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) **That staff be authorized to submit to the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing the proposed Homelessness Prevention Program Investment Plan for the 2025-26 fiscal year, as follows:**

	Planned Financial Commitments by Quarter				
Operating	Q1 Apr-Jun	Q2 July-Sept	Q3 Oct-Dec	Q4 Jan-Mar	Total
Community Outreach & Support Services	134,620	134,620	134,620	134,618	\$538,478
Emergency Shelter Solutions	103,726	103,726	103,726	103,726	\$414,904
Housing Assistance	454,675	435,421	425,049	425,049	\$1,740,194
Supportive Housing	734,985	675,075	671,323	559,861	\$2,641,244
Total Operating	1,428,006	1,348,842	1,334,718	1,223,254	\$5,334,820
Administration Fees	67,460	67,460	67,460	67,460	\$280,780
Grand Total	1,495,466	1,416,302	1,402,178	1,301,654	\$5,615,600

- b) **That staff be authorized to re-allocate program funds between the program components in response to local needs, in keeping with the updated County of Lambton Housing and Homelessness Plan, to ensure full utilization of allocations.**