

2021-2022

District of Parry Sound Housing and Homelessness Annual Report



Housing Programs

**Parry Sound District
Housing Corporation**

**Housing Stability
Program**

**Esprit Place Women's
Shelter**

www.psdssab.org

District of Parry Sound



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On behalf of the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board, I am pleased to present our 2021/2022 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report.

The District of Parry Sound’s first Housing and Homelessness Plan in 2013, and its subsequent 5-year plan update in 2019, identified housing needs and priorities for the district. This scan of our community provided an excellent starting point and encouraged collaboration and information sharing with our partners to provide better housing and homelessness support to our communities. Over the last year, great strides have been made to strengthen these partnerships, and staff continue to look for opportunities for new collaboration.

This year’s annual review summarizes our current progress, while bringing awareness to issues that are emerging throughout the district. It helps to ensure that we remain focused and in line with provincial policies, evidence informed practices, and evolving community needs.

This year, I’m particularly excited for the upcoming work that will enhance the capacity of our Violence Against Women shelter, Esprit Place Family Resource Centre. Through the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF4), the shelter will undergo construction in 2022 that will see the addition of 5 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms. This expansion will enable us to support more women in the community, provide autonomy, reduce the risk of transference (trauma, illness) and support social distancing within congregate settings.

In September 2021, the Board approved our new 5-year Strategic Plan which is now the cornerstone that will inform, guide, and measure our progress on key priorities. At the heart of the plan is our commitment to supporting a healthy and empowered community.

Regardless of the ongoing shortage of housing throughout the Province of Ontario, and the inherent challenges in ending chronic homelessness, the District of Parry Sound remains focused on targeting available funds and opportunities to increase access to affordable and supportive housing options locally, while collaborating with partners and working towards a holistic approach to the delivery of human services.

I commend staff for their efforts over the past year, but they cannot do this alone. To progress we must look to the power of collaboration, specifically with our incredible community partners and collaborative tables that work tirelessly to move the housing agenda forward. I look forward to watching our community work together and gather momentum as we face the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

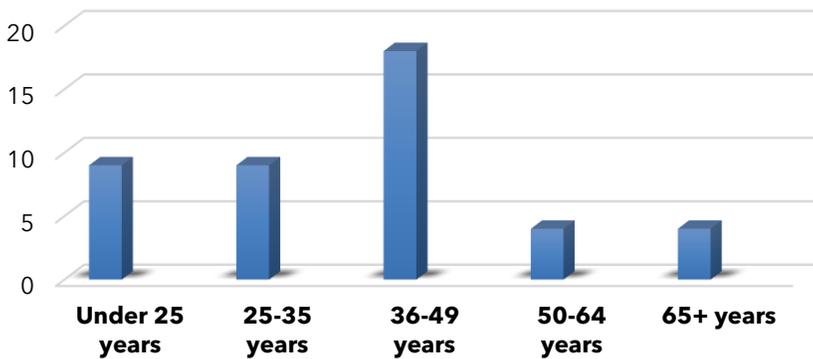
Rick Zanussi, Board Chair
District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board

Enumeration 2021

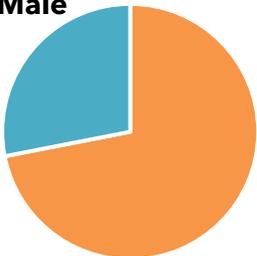
87 People in the District of Parry Sound were experiencing homelessness on September 14, 2021

*The results of this summary highlight the responses of the 44 people that consented to the enumeration survey.

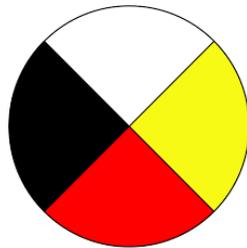
Age



39% Male



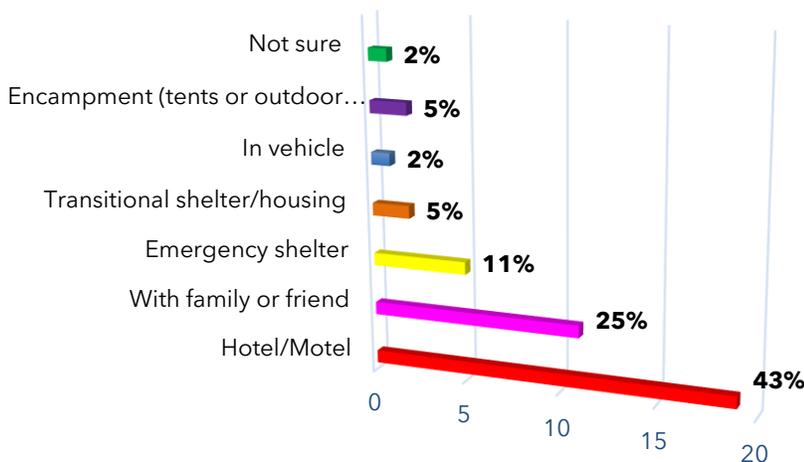
61% Female



20%

Identified as Indigenous

Where are you staying tonight?



On September 15, 2021, the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) conducted a district wide Homelessness Enumeration, which surveys those experiencing homelessness. Enumeration provides a community-wide measure of homelessness, identifying service needs and informing plans to prevent and reduce homelessness. This is a snapshot of the information that was collected, please visit our website for more details.

www.psdssab.org

Parry Sound District Housing Corp. Tenant & Maintenance Services

2021 proved to be a very busy year for us. We've had a high unit turnover rate which has rolled over into 2022.

Tenant engagement moved from in person to newsletters and information sharing from Community Partners. We have just begun to reopen our common rooms and welcome Community Partners such as The Friends and Paramedicine back for regular programming.

Tenant Services continues to work alongside Maintenance to assist our at-risk tenants with getting on track with fire safety issues, garbage, property standards, as well as education and service coordination.

The team continues to work with at-risk tenants with service coordination to get home care, basic needs, and occasionally meals covered to assist the tenants with independent living.

A frequent part of service coordination is working alongside the hospital discharge planners and occupational therapists for return to home for tenants who have recently been in hospital.

Highlights

Tenant & Maintenance Services have made a conscious effort to update our units so that they are more modern and efficient. We have updated switches and plugs along with appliances and heaters.

* In 2021, we completed 1,362 work orders for maintenance and repairs.

The Meadow View

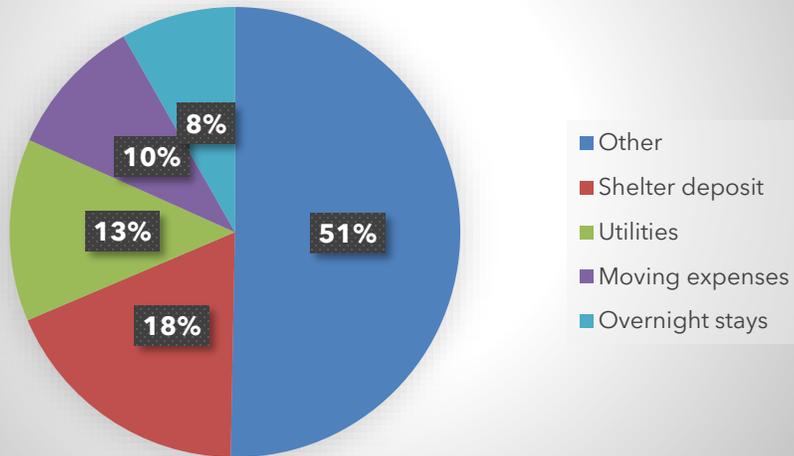


The DSSAB Board along with our Housing department has been working alongside N.O.A.H and assisting with Property Management of the new 50 unit build in Powassan. This beautiful building is a mixture of Affordable and Market units. More information about this building can be found at www.themeadowview.ca



Housing Stability Program 2021

Top 5 Reasons for CHPI Issuance in 2021



* Other may include but is not limited to: supports to obtaining housing, emergency home repair, food and/or transportation etc.

The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) provides funding to support low-income people, and people on fixed incomes. CHPI funding is used to help keep clients housed or prevent homelessness.



The Housing Stability Program (HSP) took advantage of the Covid pandemic to adapt our programming to find creative solutions to help clients.

Our team continued to meet with clients face-to-face with suitable safety measures in place. The HSP team worked a hybrid model of working in the community and working from home. This allowed us to keep a team always mobile and connected.

The pandemic provided HSP many opportunities to build our partnerships with other community agencies. Partnerships were formed with Nurse Practitioners, Community Paramedicine and the Community Mental Health Association (CMHA). Our relationship grew with the local food banks and the different meal programs. We took the opportunity to enhance our knowledge on the community supports available in the district.

The program did experience some challenges in terms of lack of housing in the area and the increase cost of general supplies for clients. However, because of the partnerships and the goal of wrap around services, together we were able to support clients in the community.

Social Housing Waitlist



Housing Assistance Programs

Rent Supplement	16 households receive a rental supplement. Paying rent-g geared-to-income rents in a private or non-profit market rental.
Housing Allowance	16 households receive a housing allowance of \$225 monthly through this Affordable Housing program.
Home Ownership	13 households have maintained their Homeownership agreement.
Ontario Renovates	91 households have maintained their Ontario Renovates agreement. 2 have been discharged in the 2021 year.

Special Priority Program (SPP)



Special priority applications are available for people fleeing domestic violence situations and victims and survivors of human trafficking

In 2021, Housing Programs was able to submit 18 new COHB (Canada Ontario Housing Benefit) applications to the Ministry with the bulk in November when we were able to submit above and beyond our 2021 allotment!



**Note from
Inside...**

2021 was a year of maintenance and trying to keep status quo without a devastating outbreak. Staff were diligent about mitigating risk to women and children staying at the shelter. Last year saw more longer stays due to housing being more difficult to find. The shelter continued at modified capacity to maintain distancing, as well as preventing gatherings in shared spaces. The shelter is looking to expand capacity which will assist with infection prevention.

Good News!

The DSSAB has received additional SSRF funding, to be utilized as operating or capital funding.

The DSSAB has submitted a business case to MMAH to support the retrofit/upgrade to Esprit Place Women's shelter, to complete an addition of 5 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms.



Food Programs Update

Harvest Share Community Food Programs is a non-profit, charitable organization based in Parry Sound.

Our Mission Statement: To improve access to healthy, nutritious food for individuals & families in need in the District of Parry Sound. We do this through various programs such as:

- 1) Community Food Bank
- 2) Fresh Food Program
- 3) Community Meal Programs - Soup Kitchen & Community Suppers
- 4) Food rescue & Community outreach

In 2021 they provided a total of **311,885** meals to the community. The total number of visits to the food bank was **14,755**, with an average of **491** clients needing service each month. They were able to reach **1,036** unique individuals and **4,261** children under 16 that were in need.

Total number of hamper and hot meal deliveries: **2,189**.



Giving
Hope
Today

The Salvation Army is an international Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible; its ministry is motivated by love for God and the needs of humanity. In 2021 they continued to provide supports to our community.

Foodbank Stats:

Adults served - **1,581**
Seniors - **167**
Children - **783**

Hotel Accommodations:

People served - **23**
Hotel nights - **37**

Homeless clients served - **154**

Emergency food bags given - **125**



Harvest Share - 93 James St,
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1T7
705-774-9111
Open 9 AM - 3 PM Monday - Friday

Salvation Army - 61 Gibson St,
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1X2
Access by appointment only
Call: 705-746-5341
Open Tuesday - Friday 1 PM - 3 PM

Appendix A: Annual Reporting Template: Reporting on the Progress of the Plan

Objectives	Outcomes	Measures	Targets	Annual Progress/ Achievements
To focus on creating additional transitional units within the district to assist chronically homeless people.	Increase transitional housing including supports.	Number of transitional units created per year.	Increase by one unit per year.	“Hotel” project was extended which includes 25 total units: 18 West, 7 East.
To work with Non-Profit and private sector developers to increase market and affordable homes within the district.	To improve access to housing for people across all levels of the housing spectrum.	Number of market and affordable homes created per year.	Create 10 affordable units per year.	The NOAH project is complete and has provided 25 Affordable units and 25 Market units.
To focus on building stronger relationships with our Indigenous Communities. To utilize COCHI funding to support the sustainability of our Indigenous Non-Profit housing provider.	Working toward a Memorandum of Understanding to increase partnerships, coordinated access to services with culturally based services with Indigenous Partners.	Number of Indigenous rent-geared-to-income units supported by COCHI.	Repair 5 units through COCHI.	*PSDSSAB did not receive COCHI in Year 1 or Year 2. COCHI Year 3 was allotted to the Non-Profit Housing Providers for repairs/sustainability. OPHI Year 3 has been allotted to The Sound Community Hub to create 4 more affordable units with Indigenous priority.
To provide Home Ownership and Ontario Renovates programs to assist homeowners in remaining in their homes & supporting those looking to enter the homeowner market.	To assist with the excessive cost of purchasing a home & the costs associated with aging housing stock.	Number of households supported through Home Ownership & Ontario Renovates programs.	Complete 2 Home Ownership agreements & 8 Ontario Renovates projects over 5 years.	Due to COVID and the rising real estate market in our district, Home Ownership was not a viable option for new homeowners. Currently we have 3 Ontario Renovates Accessibility Grants in progress, with the potential of more in the future.
To continue to work toward development of innovative Housing First strategies to reduce homelessness.	To continue rapid rehousing & providing the supports necessary to achieve long-term housing stability.	CHPI statistics including number of people housed.	Successful interventions as determined by the number of people housed.	The Housing Stability Program has housed 56 individuals or families.
To focus on the development and maintenance of relationships with community partners and services across the district.	To continue to build and maintain coordination and communication networks to further support clients.	Ongoing commitment to participating in networks.	Continuing active participation in community networks.	Developed a newsletter for HOME Network group to update annually. Continue to attend IMPACT (Situation Table on a bi-weekly basis).