



Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table

August 22, 2024

To: Guelph City Council

From: Emmi Perkins and Luisa Artuso, Co-Chairs, on behalf of Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table

Re: 100% Municipal Funding for the Provision of Basic Needs for People Experiencing Homelessness in Guelph

Preamble: Health and housing services in Wellington-Guelph were not designed with intention nor capacity to address the current magnitude and complexity of need that currently exists in our community. Services have instead evolved in response to repeated crises and emerging opportunities. As a result, the essential task of coordinating, optimizing and aligning efforts across the health and housing continuum is inherently complex. A whole-of-community approach is required to develop a 'Wellington-Guelph Integrated Health and Housing System Plan' to support partners across the health and housing systems to optimize use of existing, and advocate for additional, resources to realize improved health and social outcomes for persons with health and housing needs in Wellington-Guelph.

The 2024 Health and Housing Symposiums led by Social Services, County of Wellington, has led to the creation of a Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table to provide advice, oversight and actively contribute leadership to support both planning and action towards a vision and community plan to integrate health and housing services in Wellington-Guelph as informed by people with lived/living experience of homelessness and/or precarious health and housing.

One of the twelve "Areas of Focus" (see Appendix A) identified during the Health and Housing Integration Symposiums was "Provision of Basic Needs for People Experiencing Homelessness". A sub-working group has been formed to identify gaps and recommend required actions to meet the basic needs of those experiencing homelessness. The following recommendation has been informed by the work of that group. Direction from persons with living and lived experience is needed and will be achieved through the new Persons with Lived/Living Experience Advisory Group formed as result of the 2024 Symposiums.

Request: That the Wellington-Guelph Health and Housing Community Planning Table, as informed by and based on a gap analysis completed by the sub-working group, Provision of Basic Needs for People Experiencing Homelessness (and other sources of data/evidence), receive and oversee the distribution

of \$450,000 100% municipal funds provided by the City of Guelph to fill emergency and short term gaps and develop a long term detailed strategic action plan for people experiencing homelessness in Guelph.

Details: These resources will be used to support both short-term responses to meet the basic needs of people experiencing homelessness as well as the development of strategies and plans to secure the necessary resources for our community.

<p>1. Coordinated outreach responses</p>	<p>A. Based on an inventory of existing outreach and health services, a coordinated outreach/health response will be implemented to reduce duplication/optimize efficient and better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>\$75,000 – To provide stipends for all Outreach Workers and community agency staff to participate in the training. Timelines: Development of coordinated responses and training, Sept-Nov 2024 Training Offerings: Commencing no later than January 2025</p>
<p>2. Daytime Hub</p>	<p>A. Short term: Based on a current service inventory, gaps in current services/resources will be addressed to meet the basic needs of persons experiencing homelessness</p> <p>B. Longer term: Development of a ‘fit-for-Guelph’ plan for a sustainable hub that will support the basic needs of people experiencing homelessness AND provide comprehensive care including mental health services, addiction support, and housing.</p>	<p>\$275,000 – Increase/enhance daytime services at existing sites ie. 8am - 8pm, 7 days per week, with access to showers, storage, laundry, washrooms, food security, etc. Timeline: October 2024 to April 2025</p> <p>\$75,000 – Develop an implementation plan and associated budget proposal for a daytime basic needs hub and a Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub. Timeline: Work to commence September 2024</p>
<p>3. Encampment Check-Ins</p>	<p>A. Increased # and better coordinated ‘check-ins’ to encampments including the provision of tangible items.</p>	<p>\$25,000 for tangible items not covered by other funding sources. For example, anticipated Federal funding provided to Housing Services, Social Services. Timeline: October 2024 to December 2025</p>

Appendix A – Areas of Focus identified during the 2024 Health and Housing Symposiums

