



Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update

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Context

- The 2014-2019 Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), *Realizing Our Potential*, committed the government to update the province's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) to reflect lessons learned and new research on best practices related to housing and homelessness
- The PRS also committed the government to a long-term goal of ending homelessness in Ontario and to seek expert advice, including from those with lived experience, on: defining the problem; developing new measures to collect and track data; and, defining a baseline and setting a new homelessness-related target
- In October 2015, the report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness was released and in response, Ontario committed to immediate and longer-term actions
- On March 14, 2016, the government released the update to the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy

LTAHS Update – Vision

The strategy is based on an **updated vision**:

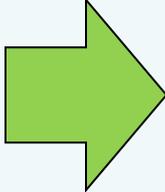
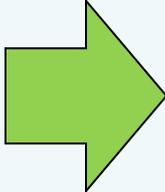
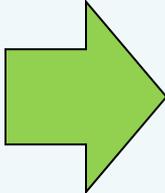


LTAHS Update – Outcomes

- This vision is associated with **two overarching outcomes**:
 - Decreased number of people who are homeless
 - Increased number of households achieving housing stability
- Achieving these outcomes can potentially impact a range of **associated outcomes**, including long-term cost avoidance in other sectors such as:
 - Decreased inappropriate use of emergency health care services
 - Decreased use of policing and correctional services
 - Increased employment
 - Increased education outcomes



Housing and Homelessness System Transformation

Current System		Transformed System
<p>Inadequate supply of affordable housing in many communities with financially unsustainable not-for-profit, co-operative and municipal housing stock</p>		<p>A range of adequate and affordable housing options, provided by the private, not-for-profit, co-operative and municipal sectors</p>
<p>Social housing wait list system that operates separately from parallel systems providing access to other forms of housing assistance</p>		<p>Coordinated system so that people can access the assistance they need (both financial and non-financial) to achieve housing stability</p>
<p>Range of financial assistance – from a limited number of highly-responsive Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) subsidies (tied to physical unit), to rent supplement programs and housing allowances</p>		<p>People with housing need can equitably access financial assistance that is responsive to their changing needs, is portable so that it moves with them, and encourages economic and social inclusion</p>
<p>Various supportive housing programs managed separately by different ministries, with different (and sometimes uncoordinated) access systems</p>		<p>People are able to access appropriate housing and support services that best meet their needs</p>
<p>An emergency shelter system in transition to support stable housing options for people</p>		<p>Emergency shelters and homeless service-system provides responsive, culturally appropriate services to assist people to become stably housed</p>

LTAHS Update Themes

Theme	Description
1. Appropriate and Sustainable Supply of Housing	<p><u>A. More Affordable Market Housing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance/expand land use planning and municipal finance tools to support the development of affordable housing • Support small landlords through legislative changes <p><u>B. Vibrant Non-Profit and Co-operative Sector</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a vibrant non-profit and co-operative sector that operates on more business-like principles, while maintaining its social purpose and increasing supply wherever possible • Disentangle the provision of social programs (municipal responsibility) from the provision of the physical asset (provider responsibility)
2. Equitable, Portable System of Financial Assistance	<p><u>A. Framework for a Portable Housing Benefit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a provincial framework for an income-based benefit that would form a best practice going forward for new investments, and shift current forms of financial assistance to the new standard as appropriate over time <p><u>B. Simplified Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Calculations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meanwhile, streamline and simplify the calculation of RGI subsidies and administration by establishing new rules for in-year income changes and increased flexibility for Service Managers in calculating income

LTAHS Update Themes Cont'd

Theme	Description
3. People-Centred, Efficient Housing Programs	<p><u>A. Modernized Social Housing Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate key elements for social housing programs in the future • Undertake some immediate reforms to support modernization • Commit to a process to define the path forward <p><u>B. Coordinated Access System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move towards a more coordinated, effective system that better matches people with housing needs to an appropriate form of assistance <p><u>C. Transformation of Supportive Housing System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to working with sector stakeholders to transform the supportive housing system, guided by a Supportive Housing Policy Framework
4. Indigenous Housing Strategy	Commit to an ongoing process of engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations to develop an Indigenous specific housing strategy, reflecting the unique housing and homelessness needs of Indigenous communities
5. Key Steps to End Homelessness	Commit to policy changes and proposed initiatives related to provincial priorities and local enumeration that, combined with related initiatives in the strategy update and previously announced commitments, will support the government's key steps to end homelessness
6. Evidence-Informed System	Continue to build an evidence-informed system that has the capacity to respond effectively to changing needs