

# HOMELESSNESS IN OTTAWA



In 2017, over 7,500 people in Ottawa were homeless and 43% of those people were **families with children**.

There are 22,500 social housing units in Ottawa that provide affordable, adequate housing for people in need, but over 10,000 families and individuals are on the waiting list for that housing.

## 30%



42% of renters in Ottawa spend more than **30%** of their income on housing, the level considered affordable.

Between 2014 and 2017, the City funded only 364 new affordable and supportive housing units.



## GROWING WAIT LIST

In 2017, the waiting list for social housing grew by 4,567 new applicants and only 1,541 moved into housing, meaning the waiting list keeps growing.

\*Statistics from City of Ottawa 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Progress Report, Ottawa.ca and the Alliance to End Homelessness Progress Report 2017, endhomelessnessottawa.ca

## WHY YOU SHOULD CARE



Homelessness is costly in human and economic terms.



Homelessness results in increased costs for health, policing, social, and emergency services.



Research shows that affordable housing has a positive impact on health and employment.

## ANNUAL COSTS OF ALTERNATIVE HOUSING OPTIONS:



Institutional (prison, hospital)  
\$660,000 - \$120,000



Emergency Shelters  
\$13,000 - \$42,000



Supportive and Transitional Housing  
\$13,000 - \$18,000



Affordable Housing with Supports  
\$5,000 - \$8,000

\*\*See for example "The Impacts of Affordable Housing on Health: A research summary", "The Real Cost of Homelessness: Can We Save Money by Doing the Right Thing?", and "the Cost of Homelessness: Analysis of Alternative Responses in 4 Cities" all on homelessshub.ca and "The Economic and Fiscal Benefits of Affordable Housing" on plannersweb.com.



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## WHAT CAN THE CITY DO

- Increase the supply of housing affordable to those at risk of homelessness.
- Use all available planning tools to create affordable housing in every ward of the City.
- Restore the Capital Reserve fund for Affordable Housing.
- Aggressively pursue proposals for available funding through the National Housing Strategy.
- Improve conditions for people living in rooming houses by better enforcement of property standards.
- Invest in appropriate support services for families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of losing their housing.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Raise affordable housing issues at debates and meetings with municipal election candidates.
- Email or write to municipal election candidates in support of affordable housing and reduced homelessness.
- Share your thoughts in every way you can on why affordable housing is important in your community.
- Be informed and know where municipal candidates stand on affordable housing and homelessness.

## QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR LOCAL CANDIDATES

- 1** What will you do to ensure safe, secure, and affordable housing is available to those who need it in your community?
- 2** What will you do to prevent homelessness in Ottawa?
- 3** How will you ensure people in rooming houses are kept safe and healthy?
- 4** What planning tools will you support to ensure more affordable housing in Ottawa?
- 5** How will you make sure services are implemented in the community in order to provide housing stability?



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Prepared by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa - Advocacy Committee

Want to learn more? Visit the Community Ministries of Ottawa Website:  
[ottawa.anglican.ca/community-ministries](http://ottawa.anglican.ca/community-ministries)  
and the Alliance to End Homelessness Website: [endhomelessnessottawa.ca](http://endhomelessnessottawa.ca)