

# Update on Niagara's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan (HHAP) and Homeless Serving System

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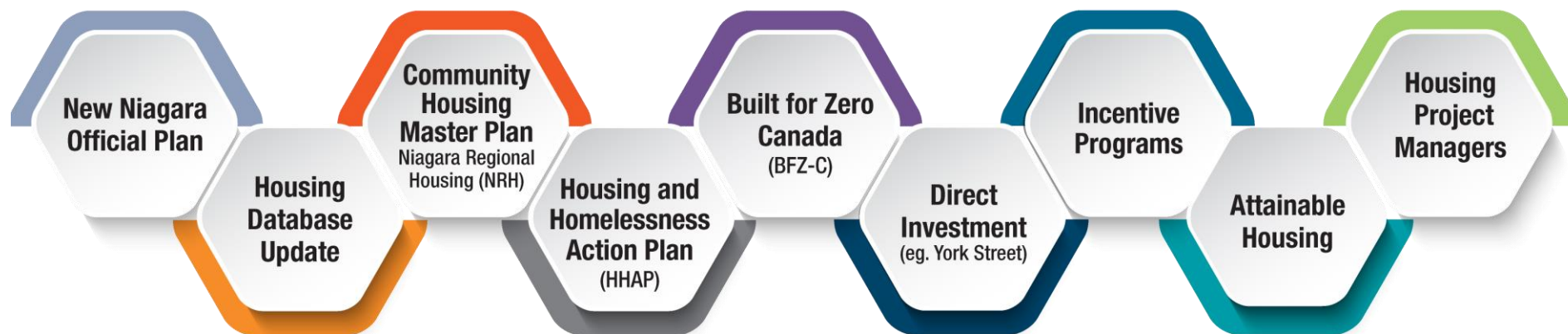
# Original Action Plan (2014-2023)

- Requirement of the Housing Services Act, 2011
- Input for original plan and update gathered through Community Consultations (1,300 persons from the community plus staff)
- Updated in 2019
- Plan and update approved by Regional Council and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
- Accomplishments are reported annually
- The Updated Action Plan and related reports can be accessed on [the Niagara Region website](#)

# New Action Plan (2024-2033)

- Work to develop plan began in early 2023 (ongoing)
  - Literature Review and Best Practice Review
  - Consultations with Staff and HHAP Working Groups (includes Lived Expert Advisory)
  - Key Informant Interviews
- Joint consultations with Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2023
  - Strategies will share housing and homelessness goals, actions and metrics
- Will support Council Strategic Priority: Healthy and Vibrant Community
  - Objective 2.3: Addressing Affordable Housing Needs
- Will link to Other Region Strategies
- Direction not yet provided by Ministry

# Links to Other Region Strategies



- Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Community Safety and Well-being
- Indigenous Engagement
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

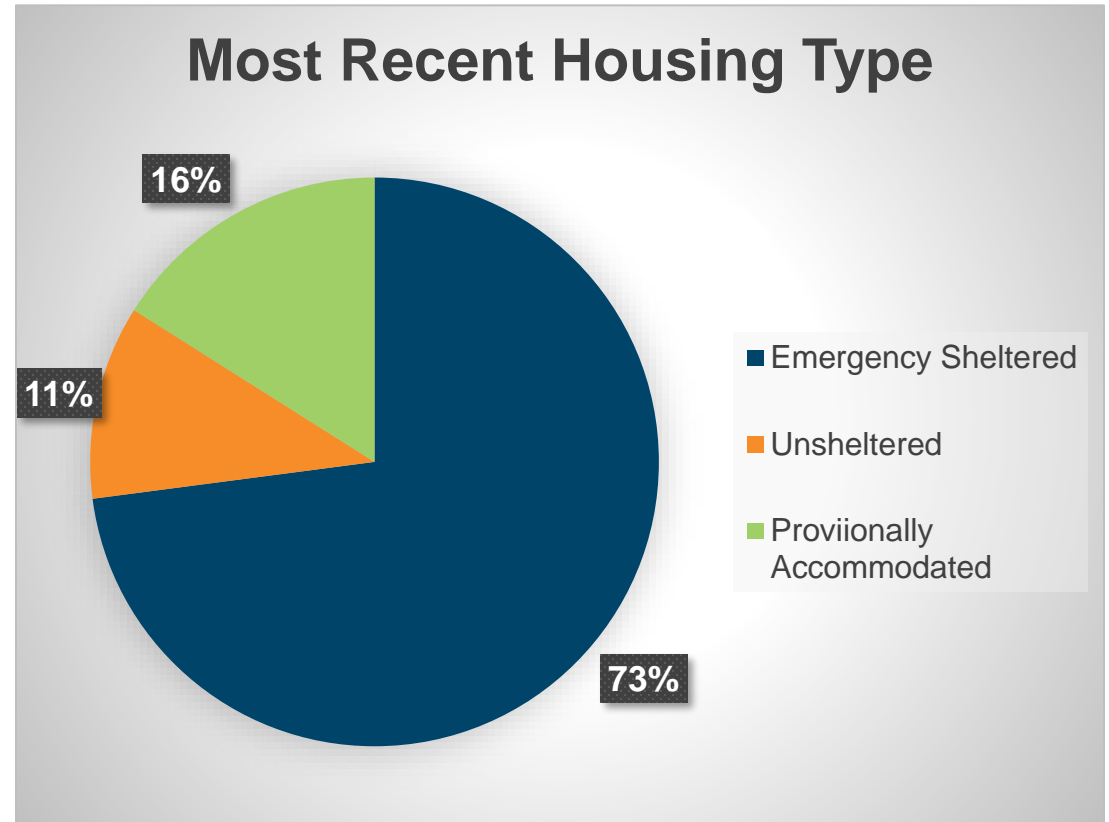
# Five Priority Areas in New Action Plan

## (Pending Ministry Direction)

Priority Area	Description	Aligned Strategies
Prevention	Eviction Prevention, Housing Loss Prevention, Housing Help	Built for Zero; Poverty Reduction Strategy
Crisis Response	Assertive Street Outreach, Housing Focused Shelters	Built for Zero
Supportive Housing	Housing First/Home for Good, Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, Bridge Housing	Built for Zero
Community Housing	Niagara Regional Housing, Non-Profit and Co-operative Housing, Rent Supplements, New Affordable Housing Development, Housing Options for households with annual incomes up to \$29,499	Community Housing Master Plan; Housing Database Update; Direct Investment in Affordable Housing; Incentive Programs; Housing Project Managers
Attainable Housing	Mix of Housing options for Different Households with annual incomes of ~ \$52,700 to \$84,399	Attainable Housing Strategy (Housing-as-a-Priority for Niagara Region Land; Student Housing; Aging in Place; Employment-focused Housing)

# Homelessness (December 31, 2023)

- 1231 people experiencing homelessness in Niagara
  - Up 12% since December 2022
- 594 were experiencing chronic homelessness
  - Up 8% since December 2022
- Rental market continues to present a significant challenge



NIAGARA REGION:

# 2021 DATA ANALYSIS

Core Need Projection from Niagara Dataset 2051 – Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA)\*\*

AS DEFINED BY THE STATISTICS CANADA:


A HOUSEHOLD IN CORE HOUSING NEED IS ONE WHOSE DWELLING IS CONSIDERED UNSUITABLE, INADEQUATE, OR UNAFFORDABLE AND WHOSE INCOME LEVELS ARE SUCH THAT THEY COULD NOT AFFORD ALTERNATIVE SUITABLE AND ADEQUATE HOUSING IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT ARE MOST CHALLENGED WITH AFFORDABILITY:



**SINGLE OR ROOMMATE**

households in core need

 **Suitable Housing:**  
Bachelor or 1 bedroom



**LONE PARENT**

households in core need

 **Suitable Housing:**  
2 or more bedrooms



**COUPLE**

households in core need

 **Suitable Housing:**  
1 bedroom



**COUPLES WITH CHILDREN**

households in core need

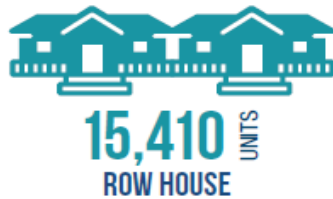
 **Suitable Housing:**  
2 or more bedrooms

HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:

INCOME LEVEL	* MAXIMUM AFFORDABLE HOUSING COST (MONTHLY)	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS IN CORE NEED
LESS THAN \$19,399	\$484	9,242
\$19,400 - 29,499	\$737	8,121
\$29,500 - 39,799	\$995	7,083
\$39,800 - 52,699	\$1,317	1,625
\$52,700 - 68,399	\$1,710	22
\$68,400 - 84,399	\$2,107	0

\* Maximum affordable housing cost is 30% of total gross income.

CURRENT HOUSING SUPPLY:



Housing Supply from Statistics Canada, Census 2021.

THE NIAGARA HOUSING STATEMENT PAINTS A MORE ACCURATE PICTURE OF THE HOUSING LANDSCAPE IN THE REGION, PROJECTING THE NEED FOR FUTURE STOCK AND INFORM STRATEGIES THAT IMPROVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE, SUITABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING.



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# Shelter Update

- Shelter system review, 2023
- Shifting away from seasonal shelter model
- Replacing with all-day year-round units:
  - 56 beds at Summer Street, Niagara Falls
  - 55 beds at Riordon, St. Catharines (under construction)
- Eight beds added to Welland





# Cold Weather Alert Protocol

- Initiated when weather forecasted to drop below -15C (or a wind chill of -20C)
- Response:
  - Municipal facilities (community centres, libraries) available during business hours
  - Regionally operated shelters add extra 30 beds
  - Niagara Regional Transit offers free rides on buses for residents travelling to shelters or warming facilities
  - Outreach Services enhanced
- See: [Cold Weather](#)

# Other Information

- Point in Time Count to be administered in Fall of 2024
  - Provides more in-depth information on causes and experiences of people experiencing homelessness than By-Name List
- Comprehensive Overview of Homelessness Initiatives
  - See: [Niagara Region's Pathway to Functional Zero](#)
- Regular Homelessness Services Newsletter
  - Sign Up here: [Homelessness Services Newsletter](#)

# Lived Expert Advisory Recommendations to Address Homelessness

- Safe, Affordable Housing for everyone
- Meaningful engagement of persons experiencing homelessness as part of solutions
- Supports and Programs free from discrimination/stigma
- More health supports, including mental health and addictions
- Access to meaningful activities so not perceived to be loitering
- Security of persons and belongings, on street and in shelter
- Ensure safety of women, youth, 2SLGBTQIAA+ people
- More peer support; peer support for survivors of violence navigating justice system
- Recommendations published in [January 16 Women's Advisory Agenda](#)

# Thank You

Questions?