

**Short-Term Actions within Region's Community and Health Services Programs (as of April 9, 2020)**

| Regional Mandate Area | Short-Term Actions<br>(estimated timing to June 2020)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| Affordable Housing    | <p><b>Short term goal - help people remain in their homes to shelter in place and avoid spread of COVID-19</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implement a short-term (4 month) rent benefit program for market rent households living in community housing (non-profit and co-operative housing providers, and Housing York) who have lost employment income as a result of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch a short term rent-benefit program to help eligible low to moderate income market rent households by May 1, 2020</li> <li>• The new short-term benefit will be funded through the existing Housing Services budget. Staff will monitor use of the program, to determine if additional funding is needed and/or the program timeline needs to be extended beyond four months</li> </ul> <p>Note: Households living in Housing York and other community housing providers who pay a subsidized rent will have their rents recalculated as usual</p> </li> <li>2. Implement the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program approved by <a href="#">Council</a> on April 2, 2020 to assist households on the Region's subsidized housing wait list living in private rental housing with a rent benefit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 260 households in year one of the program could receive a rent benefit administered by the Ministry of Finance to help with housing affordability. Funding received in year two of the program could support up to 340 households.</li> <li>• The Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit is intended to help bridge the gap between the rent a household can afford to pay and the market rent of their unit</li> <li>• This benefit is intended to help households keep their housing costs around 30% of their income. Each month, participating households will receive a direct payment from the province to help pay their rent.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Postpone evictions in Housing York Inc. properties, except for those associated with criminal activity or serious safety issues, and encourage other community housing providers to do the same <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with the private rental market, eviction applications before the Landlord and Tenant Board by Community Housing providers are on hold with the exception of criminal activity or serious safety issues</li> <li>• Housing York Inc. will postpone serving tenants with eviction notices. except for criminal activity or serious safety infractions. Staff will work with tenants to help manage rent payments, to avoid large and potentially un-payable arrears when the crisis abates.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

## ATTACHMENT 2

| Regional Mandate Area                | Short-Term Actions<br>(estimated timing to June 2020)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Monitor to determine if additional funding will be needed for the Homelessness Prevention Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Region's Homelessness Prevention Program provides financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities and other housing costs to support people <i>not</i> receiving other Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program assistance</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Review the Housing Stability Program to determine if maximum funding permitted or frequency of supports needs to be increased and monitor to determine if additional funds will be needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Region's Housing Stability Program provides financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities and other housing costs to support people receiving Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. Monitor eviction applications before the Landlord and Tenant Board to help plan and prepare for a potential increase in eviction orders when the moratorium is lifted in June. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request information from the Landlord and Tenant Board on cases</li> <li>• Partner with a non-profit organization (e.g., the Community Legal Clinic of York Region, a Community Investment Fund-supported agency) to promote awareness of tenant rights and obligations</li> </ul> </li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                     |
| Services for People who are Homeless | <p><b>Short term goal - Support physical distancing, prevent spread, reduce potential burden on health care system</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Extend the two seasonal shelters for at least a month, to ensure a safe place to stay until a better solution can be implemented (see transitional shelter below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the Region's Community Investment Fund, Mosaic, Interfaith, Out of the Cold provides seasonal sheltering for the southern part of the Region, and Inn from the Cold provides seasonal sheltering for the north. Seasonal shelters are primarily volunteer based, and provide very basic services (mats and meals). They are often appealing to people who prefer not to use the regular emergency housing system, and generally close by the end of March.</li> <li>• Mosaic and Inn from the Cold agreed to a temporary extension of their programs until April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>, respectively</li> </ul> </li> <li>8. Assist providers of homelessness services to operate their services as safely as possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim Guidance for Emergency Housing Service Settings Providers on safe operations was provided to all community organizations serving people who are homeless on March 23, 2020, and guidance from the Ministry of Health was issued and distributed April 1, 2020.</li> </ul> </li> <li>9. Establish a Self-Isolation Shelter for people who are experiencing homelessness, and need a place to live when they are confirmed to have</li> </ol> |

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|                       | <p>COVID-19 or pending results of their COVID-19 test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opened 15-unit self-isolation shelter at Leeder Place, East Gwillimbury, on April 3, in partnership with Blue Door and Housing York Inc.</li> <li>The site primarily takes referrals from York Region hospitals, and currently (April 9) has three clients</li> <li>Families originally residing at Leeder Place have been temporarily relocated to a motel</li> </ul> <p><b>10.</b> Establish and operate a Transitional Isolation Shelter to provide self-isolation space for up to 14 days, including wrap-around services for longer term needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the seasonal shelters close, as people are moved from existing emergency housing to create more physical distancing, and as new people seek to enter the shelter system, it is important that the potential for spread of the virus is managed</li> <li>Plans for a transitional isolation shelter with about 50 self-contained units and a non-profit operator are currently being finalized.</li> </ul> <p><b>11.</b> Assist Emergency Housing Providers and Housing with Supports providers with funding to enable physical distancing as well as supporting them to allow people to take loved one's home during this pandemic, if this option is available and appropriate (which is allowed for in existing Housing with Supports Guidelines)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing with Supports (formerly domiciliary hostels) refers to licensed homes where daily meals and housing is provided to people who need supervision of their daily living activities. Residents are generally frail, elderly or have a mental health diagnosis. These are permanent homes for most people who stay there. There are 22 private sector operators in York Region. The Region's role is to provide fee assistance to eligible residents and provide oversight of the program including a licensing role. The Region provides subsidies for almost 400 beds in these homes. Other organizations that refer clients to the Housing with Supports Programs include hospitals.</li> <li>The most urgent priority is safety, which has been a challenge in view of the fact that the Ministry of Health guidance for (congregate) requires the use of personal protective equipment, for which there is a national and international shortage at this time. Staff are in regular contact with providers to support as much as possible safe operations.</li> <li>Other current issues are the higher costs of food and cleaning, staff retention, managing social distancing as well as isolation in an environment that faces similar challenges as Long Term Care Homes, and the challenges to staff of encouraging residents with complex needs to stay in their homes and not go out in the community. Staff have committed to finding options to provide additional financial support to</li> </ul> |

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|                       | <p>Emergency Housing Providers and Housing with Support providers.</p> <p>Note: Housing and support for people with developmental disabilities falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community, Children and Social Services. On April 4, 2020, the Province announced \$40 million to support organizations that provide residential services for children and youth, people with developmental disabilities and emergency shelters for women and families fleeing domestic violence. Assisted Housing, Long Term Care homes and Supportive Housing (generally physical disabilities) fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Note: Violence against Women Shelters fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community, Children and Social Services. On April 4, 2020, the Province announced \$40 million to support organizations that provide residential services for children and youth, people with developmental disabilities and emergency shelters for women and families fleeing domestic violence.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Children's Services   | <p><b>Short term goal - Support parents working in critical front line roles, support families (especially those whose children have special needs) and support service providers so that they can be available to serve when the restrictions on Child Care centers ease or are removed</b></p> <p><b>12. Establish an emergency child care service for essential workers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed program and safety standards, using Ministry of Health Guidelines</li> <li>Developed an application and eligibility requirements, including working with local municipalities to identify essential core service positions. Applications opened on April 6, 2020. As of April 9, 80 applications have been received.</li> <li>Worked with child care operators who expressed an interest and were able to prepare quickly to open emergency child care sites and received approval from the Ministry of Education to open ten centres initially.</li> <li>Two centers were ready to open the week of April 6, with a third to open the week of April 13. As the centers pass further inspections, and based on demand, additional centers will be opened.</li> </ul> <p><b>13. In collaboration with EarlyON providers across the Region, Early Interventionists will make resources available virtually to help all families find activities, supports and advice to keep young children busy and active</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early interventionists work with children with a variety of needs, including cognitive and other complex challenges, by supporting and coaching their families in home or child care centres to support healthy child development and growth. They also provide crucial coping skills and resources to parents. As entry into homes is no longer safe, staff continue to support families by connecting through phone visits to continue to offer support, coaching and resources to support families with children with special needs and we are getting ready to introduce video visits to enhance support to families. 80% of families are participating in</li> </ul> |

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|                                              | <p>phone visits. As the closures last longer than originally anticipated, additional resources will be made available to support families in overcoming feelings of isolation by bringing together the expertise of Early Interventionists and EarlyON agencies to reach a broader audience.</p> <p><b>14.</b> Work with the Ministry of Education to determine how to promote sustainability of child care centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Education permitted the Region to flow Provincial funding to child care center operators in March and April equivalent to what they would have otherwise received for fee subsidies, basic operational funds, and wage subsidies. This permitted the operators to remain stable until a longer-term strategy could be put in place.</li> <li>• Regional staff is working on a provincial technical group to develop a longer-term strategy to assist operators in navigating provincial and federal supports and promote sustainability. Additional information on the Regional role and use of provincial funding is anticipated mid-April.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Social Assistance and Income Supports</b> | <p><b>Short term goal – Help low income residents access financial assistance, and as possible, additional financial help to address higher costs and lost community resources</b></p> <p><b>15.</b> Provide additional financial resources for people who receive Ontario Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of applications for Ontario Works has nearly doubled since March 2019. Redeployment and training of staff, and increased use of on-line application resources are enabling staff to respond to this growth</li> <li>• Implement as quickly as possible additional discretionary benefit amounts as permitted by the Province</li> </ul> <p><b>16.</b> Expand capacity to respond to growth in applications for Emergency Assistance by people who are not receiving financial help through social assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Assistance provides financial help to Ontario residents in a crisis or emergency situation, who do not have enough money for things like food and housing, for example, where they have been affected by COVID-19, are evicted, or leaving an abusive relationship</li> <li>• Funding up to \$733 per month for a single individual (more for larger households) is available for up to 48 days</li> </ul> <p>Note: Social Assistance and Emergency Assistance benefit costs are 100% paid for by the province. The Region is responsible for roughly 50% of the costs for administering these provincial programs.</p> <p><b>17.</b> Assist residents and community organizations to access financial supports available from other levels of government through information</p> <p>The federal and provincial governments have committed to a wide range of new and expanded financial supports. The Region is tracking these</p> |

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|                       | <p>programs and promoting their use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access York is providing information and referrals for Federal and Provincial COVID-19 assistance programs</li><li>• Information about resources for community organizations is shared through regular emails, and at the Community Coordination Table and its working groups</li></ul> |