

The Regional Municipality of York

Committee of the Whole
Community and Health Services
June 15, 2023

Report of the Commissioner of Community and Health Services and Chief Planner

Housing Solutions 2022 Progress Report and 2023 Action Plan

1. Recommendations

1. Council endorse the *Housing Solutions* Phase 2 2023 Action Plan (Appendix A).
2. Council request the Provincial and Federal governments commit consistent, long-term capital and operating funding to support the homelessness system, sustain existing community housing, and better enable the Region to achieve its goal to double community housing growth.
3. The Regional Clerk forward this report and attachments to the Federal Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, local Members of Parliament, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Provincial Parliament, and Clerks of the local municipalities.

2. Summary

This report updates Council on progress made in 2022 toward the goals and objectives set by York Region's 10-year housing and homelessness plan, *Housing Solutions: A place for everyone – Phase 2, 2019 to 2023*. The report also recommends actions for 2023 for Council's endorsement. As in many jurisdictions across Canada, housing affordability remains a key issue and demand for housing and homelessness services remains strong. As a result, this report recommends continued advocacy to senior levels of government for sustained and enhanced funding to help residents living with low and moderate incomes access affordable housing options.

Key Points:

- As Service Manager, York Region is required by the *Housing Services Act, 2011* to develop a 10-year housing and homelessness plan and report annually on progress
- All actions planned for 2022 were completed
- The 2023 action plan (Appendix A) includes actions to address affordability challenges of residents across the income spectrum, including people at risk of or experiencing homelessness

- As the current plan ends in 2023, a new housing and homelessness plan is targeted for consideration by Council in 2024, to be informed by consultations and a needs assessment, as well as implementation plans currently underway. These include the Affordable Private Market Housing Implementation plan focused on private market affordability, the Community Housing Development Master Plan focused on community housing supply, and the Homelessness Service System Plan focused on the homelessness and housing stability system

3. Background

Council endorsed Phase 2 of *Housing Solutions* in October 2019

Service Managers in Ontario are required by the *Housing Services Act, 2011* to develop and implement a 10-year plan to address local housing and homelessness needs, and to complete a review of the plan at least once every five years. The Region's first plan, [Housing Solutions: A place for everyone](#) was approved in [June 2014](#). In [October 2019](#), Council approved the outcome of the five-year review, [Housing Solutions: A place for everyone – Phase 2 2019 to 2023](#) (*Housing Solutions Phase 2*), which included updated goals and objectives to address resident needs in York Region over the final five years of the plan.

Service Managers are also required to report publicly each year on progress achieved in advancing their 10-year plans. Each June, Council receives a report on outcomes from the previous year, as well as an action plan and outlook for the next two years. This approach was established to allow the Region to address significant changes in policy directions and funding from senior levels of government. As this year marks the last year of the current plan, this report provides a 2023 action plan only.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council received a combined 2019/2020 progress report in [June 2021](#), and the 2021 progress report in [June 2022](#).

4. Analysis

All actions identified for 2022 have been completed

A total of 30 actions were identified in the [action plan](#) endorsed by Council in June 2022. All have been completed. Table 1 highlights key accomplishments, with detailed outcomes for each action provided in Attachment 1.

Table 1
Key Accomplishments Achieved in 2022

Goal	Accomplishments
Increase the Supply of Affordable and Rental Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing approved the York Region Official Plan in November 2022. The Regional Official Plan includes enhanced intensification, density and complete community requirements to direct substantial new growth in housing to areas well-served by transit and services. • Committed financial incentives to support the development of 390 new private purpose-built rental units across three municipalities. • Advanced construction of 265 community housing units in the City of Markham and 97 units in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, both to be owned and operated by Housing York Inc. (HYI). Planning also advanced for two additional HYI developments, one in the City of Markham and one in the Town of Newmarket.
Help People Find and Keep Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed the housing needs of 629 households from the subsidized housing wait list, including enrolling 356 households in the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit program. • Continued to enhance outreach services by expanding supports and services to assist people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.
Strengthen the Housing and Homelessness System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched the first phase of the online housing offer process with nine community housing sites, a new way to offer available subsidized vacancies to wait list applicants. • Continued to coordinate the By-Name List Community Collaborative Table and referred 132 people to the Table to be matched with appropriate programs and supports.

While system indicators and key performance measures demonstrate continued affordability challenges, York Region is seeing an increase in purpose-built rental developments

York Region saw continued housing affordability challenges in 2022. Vacancy rates for purpose-built rentals decreased from 1.8% in 2021 to 1% in 2022 and remained below the 3% benchmark commonly considered to indicate a “healthy” rental market for all unit sizes. Despite these trends, there is growing interest from the development industry in building purpose-built rental housing. As reported to Council in May 2022 as part of the 2022 Regional Centres and Corridors update, a total of 38 developments, representing 8,294 purpose-built rental units, are currently proposed across the Region.

Also on the June 15, 2023 Committee of the Whole agenda, it was reported to Council that only 0.75% of new ownership housing was affordable to households with incomes at the sixth income decile (those who earn \$150,426 per year) in 2022, compared to 0.15% in 2021. This is the fifth year in a row that Regional affordability targets have not been met. Limited affordable ownership and rental housing options continue to affect the Region's long-term growth and sustainability. As a result, an Affordable Private Market Housing Implementation Plan is being developed to identify actions, advocacy, and partnership approaches to help address housing affordability in the private market. This work is being coordinated with the development of the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan.

In 2022, York Region helped 629 households from the wait list access rent subsidies, the highest number of households assisted in a single year since the wait list was established in the early 2000s

The subsidized housing wait list is used to allocate subsidized units in community housing, rent supplement units under agreements with private market landlords, and portable housing benefits to help pay market rent. In 2022, The Region housed 629 applicants, the highest number of households housed in a single year since the wait list was established in the early 2000s. Of the 629 applicants housed, 272 (43%) accepted offers for a subsidized unit, while 356 (57%) accepted a portable benefit under the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit or the York Region Portable Housing Benefit. Portable benefits like Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit, which launched in [2020](#), provide an alternative for renter households to receive financial assistance to help pay market rent, rather than waiting for a subsidized unit to become available.

The overall size of the wait list continued to decrease in 2022, from 15,679 applicants in 2021 to 14,867 in 2022. The wait list has decreased by about 15% since 2019. This is a result of continued efforts to remove applicants who are no longer eligible under the Region's income and asset limits, who no longer require housing supports, or who have not responded to multiple requests to update their files, as required by Provincial regulations.

While the number of households on the wait list continued to decrease, there remains considerable need for subsidized housing options. In 2022, the Region received and approved 2,421 new applications. On average, between 2008 and 2022, about 371 applicants were housed annually, while the wait list grew by an average of 645 applicants each year. The wait list does not tell a complete picture of housing need in York Region. The [2021 Census](#), for example, indicated the Region has the highest proportion of renter and owner households spending 30% or more of income on housing costs in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

In 2022, 1,979 people accessed homelessness prevention and housing stability services

York Region data demonstrates the continued need for homelessness prevention and housing stability programs. The number of individuals who accessed program supports increased by 7% from 1,852 in 2021 to 1,979 in 2022. This includes:

- A growing number of individuals accessed the Region’s Homelessness Prevention Program, which is operated by a community service partner. 262 households were provided financial and other supports to maintain housing stability, which was an increase of 7% compared to 2021. The Homelessness Prevention Program helps eligible York Region residents who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and not receiving Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Program benefits with financial assistance for rent, utilities and other housing costs to stabilize their housing.
- Through funding provided by the provincial Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF), the Region assisted 97 households with rent and utility arrears to help them remain housed.
- 1,098 households accessed the Housing Stability Program in 2022, a 71% increase from the previous year. The Homelessness Stability Program helps eligible York Region residents receiving Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Program benefits who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness with financial assistance for rent, utilities and other housing costs to stabilize their housing.

In addition to the uptake in homelessness prevention and housing stability programs, the emergency and transitional housing system has seen consistent demand from individuals seeking support:

- In 2022, 1,239 unique individuals accessed emergency and transitional housing, including the Region’s temporary Transitional and Self-Isolation Shelters, compared to 1,336 individuals in 2021. The average length of stay in emergency housing was 35.7 days in 2022, compared to 28.3 days in 2021.
- Among residents supported in emergency and transitional housing during 2022, 381 (31%) transitioned to more stable housing compared to 543 (41%) in 2021.

Federal and Provincial funding is critical to support the housing needs of York Region residence and advance the goals of *Housing Solutions*

All levels of government have a role to play in addressing housing and homelessness challenges. York Region monitors and pursues all funding opportunities offered through senior levels of government to advance its housing and homelessness priorities. Federal and Provincial funding continued to play a critical role in advancing the goals of *Housing Solutions* in 2022. This included:

- Funding to enroll 356 households in the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit, representing more than \$3 million in investment. The Region was able to take up 56 spaces more than forecasted due to its efficiency in offering the program to households on the wait list.
- Approximately \$5.9 million under the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) to support housing provider capital repairs.

- Approximately \$48 million in Provincial funding under the SSRF to support York Region's COVID-19 pandemic response since April 2020. SSRF has funded primary care, mental health and addiction supports, homelessness prevention programs (such as rent/utility arrears), and improvements to existing congregate living settings. \$7.3 million in SSRF funding supported the Region in building 26 new transitional housing units in the Town of East Gwillimbury and the Town of Georgina.
- Approximately \$20.9 million in Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program funding to continue to deliver programs and services to help people at risk of or experiencing homelessness find and keep housing, and to maintain approximately 350 rent supplements previously funded through the previous Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program

The Region has carried the majority of the costs to develop community housing supply

Council has consistently identified the need to increase the supply of community housing, including as part of the [2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results](#), approved in February 2023. Funding from senior levels of government is critical to this objective. From 2013 to 2024, the Region will have increased the HYI portfolio by six buildings with 963 units. The Region has funded over 60% of the capital costs for these projects.

The Region can no longer carry most of the capital costs needed for new development while building at the scale and speed required to address housing need. In response to this, Council endorsed a request to the Federal and Provincial governments in [June 2022](#) to commit to two-thirds of the cost of doubling the rate of growth for HYI, representing \$216 million each. This would support the Region in constructing 1,852 units.

Since that time, Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, made housing services ineligible for development charges revenue. This will limit the Region's ability to fund new supply. From 2013 to 2024, approximately 10% of the Region's project costs to build new community housing was funded by development charge revenue. Further, the Region's 2022 Development Charges Background Study identified collection of \$109 million in development charges for housing for the period of 2023 to 2032. In [February 2023](#), Council requested the Province confirm York Region will be made whole financially to pay for necessary infrastructure and community services to support building more homes faster, and to reinstate housing services as eligible for funding under the *Development Charges Act, 1997*.

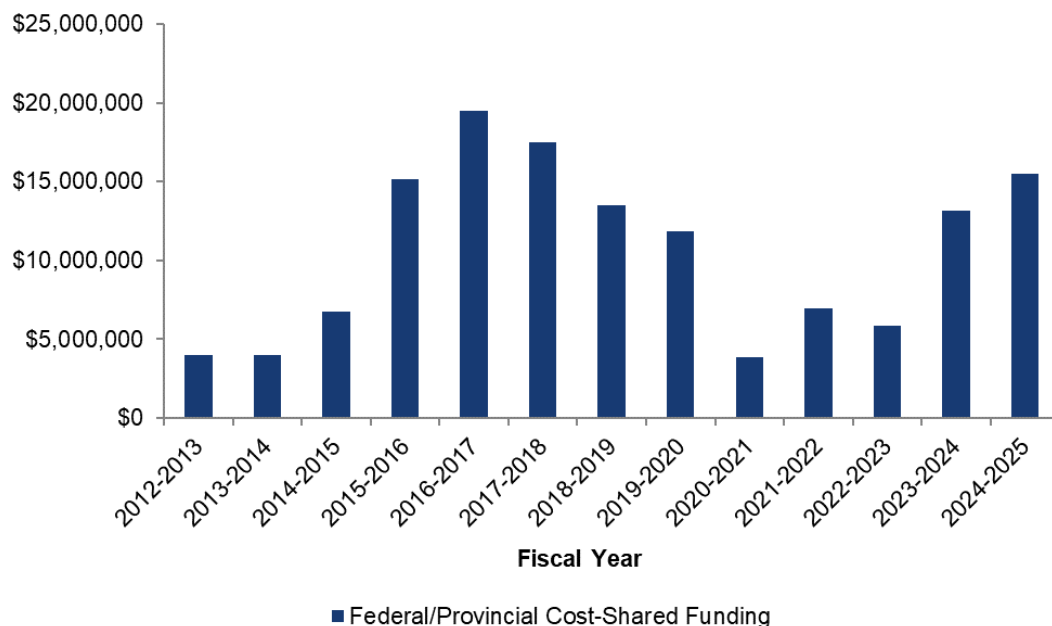
The Region was successful in securing CMHC Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) Round 3 funding under the Cities Stream, as communicated to Council in [January 2023](#). The amount of funding is confidential until an official announcement is made with CMHC. Council [authorized](#) staff to submit applications to CMHC for Cities stream funding for the HYI Whitchurch-Stouffville development and proposed Men's Emergency and Transitional Housing Development in the Town of Aurora. Council also authorized submission of an application to CMHC under the Projects Stream for the proposed HYI Box Grove development in the City of Markham.

The Region will need additional Federal and Provincial support to increase community housing supply, in the form of long-term and predictable funding

The Region receives funding under several programs that could be used to build community housing. OPHI and COCHI are cost-shared grant programs transferred directly to the Region to help address local priorities, including new supply and capital repairs. Other programs, like the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, administered by CMHC, are Federally funded only and require applications for specific projects.

The Region pursues all funding opportunities for which it is eligible. The forthcoming Community Housing Development Master Plan will identify development opportunities, estimated costs, and potential funding sources, supporting the Region’s continued advocacy and planning for available funding from senior levels of government. Federal/Provincial cost-shared funding allocated to the Region from 2012 to 2022, as well as planned funding allocations from 2023 to 2025 is outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1
Federal/Provincial Funding Allocated to York Region, 2012-2025



*Note: Figure 1 includes cost-shared funding for 2023-2024 and 2024-25 communicated to the Region for planning purposes but not yet confirmed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Funding under Federal programs, such as CMHC National Housing Co-Investment Fund, are not represented as funding commitments are confidential until authorized for release by CMHC.

Figure 1 highlights the inconsistent nature of program allocations year over year. Funding for OPHI and COCHI is announced by the Province with a requirement for the Region to submit an investment plan for approval shortly after. Previous Federal/Provincial programs allocated funding across multiple program years, providing greater flexibility to align with local development plans. Funding under current programs is allocated on a use-it or lose-it basis and must be committed within the fiscal year, with tight timelines for spending. While the Region can choose to invest OPHI and COCHI into capital (new supply; repairs) or operating (short-term housing allowances) priorities, funding is not sufficient to address both capital repair and new supply needs.

Under the National Housing Strategy bilateral agreement between the Federal and Provincial governments, funding was to be committed in three-year increments; however, the Region was only informed of its allocation for 2022 to 2023, and allocations for 2023 to 2025 were communicated for planning purposes but were not confirmed prior to the start of the fiscal year. This presents challenges for effective long-term planning to address supply and repair needs. The bilateral agreement also stated funding for Provincial-Territorial priority funds like OPHI would gradually taper off by 2027-28 to prioritize funding for the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit. As a result, this report recommends the Federal and Provincial governments commit to increased, long-term and predictable funding allocations, including extending programs like OPHI beyond 2028, to support Service Managers in planning. This recommendation aligns with previously endorsed Council positions.

The Province has increased Homelessness Prevention Program funding beginning in 2023-24

In 2021, the Auditor General of Ontario (OAGO) found that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's (MMAH) allocation of funding to municipalities under the previous provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative was not based on current municipal needs. The OAGO found that the MMAH used older census data to inform funding calculations. York Region could have received an increase of 43% in its 2020-21 funding allocations if MMAH had used more recent census data. At the time of the OAGO report, York Region was ranked one of the lowest of the 47 service managers in terms of funding per capita received (\$12.28 per capita).

On April 11, 2023 the Province announced funding of \$36,701,600 under the Homelessness Prevention Program, an increase of \$15.8 million from the previous fiscal year. This funding is confirmed for the next three years.

A Homelessness Service System Plan is under development to guide the Region's homelessness response

The Region is developing a Homelessness Service System Plan, which will consist of three priority areas – prevention and diversion, intervention and housing stability and coordinated systems response. The plan will focus on:

- Addressing emerging community needs

- Prioritizing resources to focus on early intervention and prevention
- Exploring forecasting of system needs to support longer-term planning

To inform the plan, staff will undertake consultations with people with lived experience, service providers and operators, municipal partners and community stakeholders, and will leverage available research and data.

As 2023 marks the end of York Region’s first housing and homelessness plan, *Housing Solutions*, the next plan is under development

As 2023 represents the final year of the Region’s first 10-year housing and homelessness plan, work has commenced on the development of the Region’s next plan. As staff design the approach for the next installment of the plan, there will be a focus on increasing the supply of affordable and community housing options and enhancing housing stability supports to address homelessness. The new plan will be informed by the three implementation plans currently under development – the [Affordable Private Market Housing Implementation Plan](#), the [Community Housing Development Master Plan](#) and the Homelessness Service System Plan.

Staff will engage and work with internal and external partners to conduct a needs analysis to inform the development of the new plan. The plan will be aligned to other Regional strategies, such as the [2023 to 2027 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results](#), the refreshed [Plan for Seniors](#) and the [Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for York Region](#), which takes a social development, community-driven and place-based approach to address identified priority risks, including housing stability.

5. Financial

York Region will receive approximately \$61.4 million in Federal/Provincial funding for fiscal year 2023-24 to support *Housing Solutions*

Table 3 outlines confirmed and planned Federal and Provincial funding allocations for community housing, homelessness and housing stability programs for the 2023 to 2024 fiscal year. In addition to cost-shared programs, the Region was awarded Federal funding under Rapid Housing Initiative Round 3 and the National Housing Co-Investment Fund. Funding amounts under these programs are confidential at this time until formally announced by CMHC, and as a result are not included in Table 3.

Table 3
Federal/Provincial Funding Allocations for 2023-24

Funding Stream	Program	Capital or Operating	2023-24
Housing Programs	Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (F/P)*	Both	\$7,096,400
	Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (F/P)*	Both	\$6,022,000
	Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (F/P)*	Operating	\$2,527,600
	Service Manager Federal Funding for Social Housing (F)	Operating	\$9,033,450
Homelessness and Housing Stability Programs	Homelessness Prevention Program	Both	\$36,701,600
Total Funding			\$61,381,050

*Represents planning allocations communicated to York Region by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on February 3, 2023

In 2023, the Region is investing over \$88 million in operating funding and \$7.3 million in capital funding into housing and homelessness priorities

The Region's investment in housing, homelessness prevention and housing stability programs in 2023 includes \$87 million in tax levy funding for Homelessness Community Programs and Housing Services, and approximately \$1.3 million currently planned through the Community Investment Fund. The 2023 Housing Services capital budget includes \$7.3 million in tax-levy reserve funding.

In addition to the \$88 million in operating funding, in [February 2023](#) Council approved nearly \$12.8 million in annual investment over the next four years to address critical issues impacting residents related to housing, homelessness, community investments and mental health. The additional investment was allocated to the Community and Health Services budget starting in 2023 and is funded through the Pandemic and Recovery Management Reserve Fund. Proposed projects include increasing seasonal shelter capacity and community housing supply, expanding rapid rehousing subsidies, and helping more people through enhanced community investments, including mental health and human trafficking counselling supports.

Staff will identify options for permanent, sustainable funding through the 2025 budget process, which may include tax levy funding. This approach allows time to evaluate the impact of new initiatives, ensure alignment with the next 10-year housing and homelessness plan and Homelessness Service System Plan, and report back to Council with a comprehensive strategy.

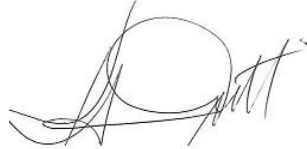
6. Local Impact

Residents living in all nine local municipalities have been impacted by increasing housing costs, a lack of affordable rental supply, and a need for support services to prevent and address homelessness. Local municipalities remain critical partners in achieving the goals and objectives of *Housing Solutions*, including increasing the rental housing supply and enabling the development of affordable housing options through supportive planning policies and participation in incentive programs. Local municipalities are key partners in responding to homelessness through collaborative work between outreach workers, local municipal staff and community agencies to support those who may be homeless, or at risk of homelessness. The Region has continued to work collaboratively with local municipalities on housing related initiatives.

7. Conclusion

In 2022, the Region made significant progress toward the goals and objectives of *Housing Solutions Phase 2*, including supporting residents to find and keep affordable housing and addressing homelessness. The action plan for 2023 will enable the Region and its partners to continue this work for the final year of the plan. A new 10-year housing and homelessness plan is also being developed for Council's consideration in late 2024, which will be informed by the various implementation plans currently underway, focusing on private market affordability, community housing development and the Homelessness Service System Plan.

For more information on this report, please contact Kathy Fischer, General Manager, Housing Services at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72091, Kevin Pal, General Manager, Social Services at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72150, Paul Freeman, Chief Planner, 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71534. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.



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Approved for Submission:

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May 30, 2023
15038900

Appendix A - *Housing Solutions Phase 2 - 2023 Action Plan*
Attachment 1 - *Housing Solutions: A place for everyone, 2022 Progress Report*

Housing Solutions Phase 2 – 2023 Action Plan

Goal 1: Increase the Supply of Affordable and Rental Housing

Objective	2023 Actions
1. Plan for a full mix and range of housing options to support achievement of complete communities	1.1 Continue to support local municipal staff in development of housing related initiatives, including housing strategies and inclusionary zoning.
	1.2 Research housing gaps to better understand housing demand and inform future solutions and approaches to address housing need.
	1.3 Complete background work to support an update to the Affordable Housing Measuring and Monitoring Guidelines.
	1.4 Leverage the Region’s development tracking system (YorkTrax) to support housing supply analytics and visualization.
2. Implement tools and policies to increase the affordable housing supply	2.1 Develop an Affordable Private Market Housing Implementation Plan to identify and fund action, advocacy and partnership approaches to increase the supply of private market affordable housing.
	2.2 Through a report to Council, continue to advocate to the Province that the Region be made whole financially as a result of Bill 23, <i>More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022</i> , and that housing services be reinstated as eligible for funding under the <i>Development Charges Act, 1997</i> .
	2.3 Continue to work with stakeholders, local municipalities, senior levels of government, the development industry and community partners to explore approaches to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Objective	2023 Actions
	2.4 Seek Council endorsement to defer consideration of a potential Vacant Home Tax to 2024 to allow for additional analysis of emergent Provincial and Federal regulations, economic conditions, opportunities to streamline administration and collaboration with other Ontario municipalities.
3. Build community housing and encourage affordable rental housing to meet the needs of low and moderate income households	3.1 Complete construction of Unionville Commons.
	3.2 Seek Council approval of a Community Housing Development Master Plan.
	3.3 Submit planning applications for 62 Bayview Parkway development in the Town of Newmarket.
	3.4 Design and launch a pilot program to support housing providers to develop new community housing in response to Council's decision in February 2023 to dedicate additional funding to critical social infrastructure.
	3.5 Explore funding opportunities to move from planning to construction at 7045 14th Avenue in the City of Markham.
	3.6 Establish a Municipal Land Contribution Program by finalizing the land transfer criteria and protocol, the municipal land donation guidelines, and identifying the first sites for donation, in response to Council's February 2021 motion for local municipalities to donate land for affordable housing purposes.
	3.7 Submit investment plan/applications for Rapid Housing Initiative Round 3 funding.
	3.8 Continue advocating for Federal/Provincial capital funding to advance community housing projects identified in the 10-year capital plan.

Goal 2: Help People Find and Keep Housing

Objective	2023 Actions
1. Deliver programs that help residents with low and moderate income living in private market housing keep their homes	1.1 Implement Year 4 of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.
	1.2 Implement new Housing Services Act, 2011 regulatory amendments, including Council approval of a service agreement framework, and reviewing and updating programs and policies to ensure compliance.
	1.3 Continue to implement the consolidated Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program Plan and further enhance data collection through the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) to provide greater insight into program outcomes and areas that require further development.
	1.4 Expand the Region's Rapid Rehousing Program by working with emergency housing operators to provide rent assistance to people moving from emergency or transitional housing to longer-term housing and to help people retain their market housing.
2. Support long-term housing stability by strengthening individuals and community housing communities	2.1 Connect subsidized housing wait list applicants, including seniors, to available programs and resources while they wait for housing.
	2.2 Deliver programming and services that support residents' housing stability and wellness.
	2.3 Continue planning and construction for seniors focused hub and community centre at Unionville Commons.
	2.4 Continue to explore opportunities to locate Community and Health Services programs and services and/or establish hubs in new Housing York Inc. builds.
3. Advance prevention programs through continuous improvements to help people at risk of homelessness remain stably housed	3.1 Continue to strengthen prevention and early intervention activities by incorporating best practices from York Region's COVID-19 response. Enhance diversion from emergency housing and explore opportunities to improve financial supports for households, including those in arrears.

Objective	2023 Actions
4. Strengthen homelessness and housing stability services to help people experiencing homelessness to find and keep housing	4.1 Continue to develop a service delivery model for the new men’s multi-service emergency and transitional housing program informed by consultations with service providers, people with lived experience and community stakeholders. A Request for Proposal process will be used to select an operator.
	4.2 Continue to enhance integration of the seasonal shelter programs into the broader homelessness prevention and housing stability system.
	4.3 Provide additional supports for people experiencing homelessness during extreme weather events, including developing and implementing a Heat Relief Strategy.
	4.4 Enhance compliance to operational standards for emergency and transitional housing and explore opportunities to increase access to all programs and services.
	4.5 Monitor Provincial supportive housing system review and analyze the implications on York Region’s Housing with Supports program.
	4.6 Build on the successes of the Community Paramedicine Outreach Response Team by expanding primary care and mental health and addictions supports to more people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
	4.7 Continue to pilot the Emergency Housing Centralized Intake Line and use best practices to inform the development of a permanent service.
	4.8 Fund community services that help residents to find and keep housing through the Community Investment Fund.

Goal 3: Strengthen the Housing and Homelessness System

Objective	2023 Actions
1. Sustain the existing stock of community housing	1.1 Expand the online housing offer process to remaining community housing sites.
	1.2 Build on the upgraded subsidized housing applicant portal to improve the annual update process and increase the proportion of applicants using the portal to approximately 80%.
	1.3 Complete investment plan to allocate Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative and Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative funding for years 2023-24 and 2024-25, with a focus on Regional housing priorities.
	1.4 Provide training for community housing providers to support strong board governance and operations.
2. Build an integrated system to plan and deliver homelessness and housing stability services	2.1 Increase community service provider participation on the By-Name List Community Collaborative Table to enhance client access to appropriate housing options and other supports across the Region.
	2.2 Develop directions/priorities for a Homelessness Service System Plan to address emerging community needs, prioritize resources to focus on early intervention and prevention, and forecast investments and ongoing resources needed for longer-term planning to support York Region residents at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
3. Conduct research, engagement, and knowledge sharing to identify service system gaps and build community capacity in the homelessness and housing stability service system	3.1 Continue to implement lessons learned and best practices gleaned throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure prevention, diversion and emergency housing programs continue to meet the emerging needs of the community.
	3.2 Increase diversion from emergency housing and strengthen supports for youth experiencing homelessness. Continue to implement initiatives identified through the Youth Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stabilization Committee.
	3.3 Support the Community Action Tables in the implementation of actions related to housing stability in the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

Objective	2023 Actions
4. Support residents to age in their communities and influence the transformation of the long-term care sector	4.1 Seek Council approval of the proposed 2023 to 2027 York Region Plan to Support Seniors and begin implementation.
	4.2 Expand CP@Clinic to six additional seniors' community housing sites. Community Paramedicine will continue to explore opportunities to support seniors within the community.
	4.3 Influence the proposed amendments to the regulations under the <i>Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021</i> by providing feedback.
	4.4 Share insights and expertise on, and advocate for the needs of, seniors as part of Regional membership on local Ontario Health Teams.