



## County and City Expanding Rapid Re-Housing Support in Orillia

### **What is the Supportive Rapid Rehousing Program (SRRP)?**

A SRRP is a compassionate approach aimed at supporting individuals who are situationally homeless, which is the most common type of homelessness. Situational homelessness may be the result from many reasons beyond a person's control, such as abuse or sudden loss of employment.

This temporary program is designed to assist individuals to transition into permanent housing within 180 days. It is a supportive environment that provides full wrap-around services.

### **What type of services are provided to people through the SRRP?**

The supports will include housing and daily meals with several coordinated and individualized services to help the program participant achieve positive housing outcomes. The staff will provide support to the participants in the program by making appropriate referrals to employment, education, and health services. The program participants will be supported in all aspects of the move-in process to permanent housing including unit viewings, reviewing leases, furnishing apartments. Participants in the program will receive ongoing post-placement support for six months after securing permanent housing.

### **Why are the City and County doing this? Don't we have shelters for this?**

This initiative in Orillia is expected to create space in the city's existing shelter system, as the two programs work together to move people from situational homelessness to permanent housing through a system-wide approach.

### **Is this an emergency shelter?**

No, this temporary program is designed to assist individuals, previously identified as situationally homeless, to transition into permanent housing within 180 days. It is a supportive environment that provides full wrap-around services.

### **Where will the temporary structure be located?**

Orillia Council has authorized 175 West St. S. and 66 Peter St. S. as short-listed sites to facilitate the Supportive Rapid Re-Housing Program. The second ranked property at 66 Peter Street South would only be pursued if site complications delayed the County of Simcoe's ability to apply for a Building Permit by March 15, 2024, to maintain their commitment to the Federal Government to have the SRRP Program operational and occupied with tenants by April 30, 2024.

## When will the site be selected?

The final site will be selected in early March to ensure the County of Simcoe can apply for a building permit by March 15, 2024 to meet financial and operational requirements.

## Will people be living there permanently? How long will the temporary structure be in place?

No. The goal of this program is to transition people into their permanent housing within 180 days. The facility that you will see going up will be a temporary one, and is not a long-term, permanent structure. Council has authorized it to be placed at the site for up to five years.

## Who will run the program?

Through an open Request for Proposal process, an operator will be selected by the County of Simcoe in March 2024 to manage this facility to run programs, prior to the facility opening in Orillia this year.

## How many people will be helped through this SRRP in Orillia?

Once the facility has been placed and an operator has been selected, this program will support 10-20 participants within the first six months of the project and 20-40 participants within the first year, which could equal up to 100-200 participants over the project's duration of five years.

## Do you have any experience with a similar program in the past? How well has it worked?

A similar temporary structure has been successfully utilized by the County in the City of Barrie on Rose Street. While being operated as a transitional housing program, the initiative in Barrie led to 18 clients (90% of the participants) moving to permanent housing in a limited period, which is the ultimate goal of the program. The SRRP program is being implemented in four communities within Simcoe County to allow people to stay close to where they live and work, when they find themselves situationally homeless.

## How do I find out more about this program?

To find out more about this project, please contact Janette McGee, City of Orillia Housing Coordinator, at 705-418-3575 or visit [simcoe.ca/SRRP](http://simcoe.ca/SRRP).



### Myth: Property values will go down.

Reality: Many studies on affordable housing conclude that there is no impact on property values.<sup>1</sup> One study done in Toronto found that, "there was no evidence that the existence of the supportive housing buildings studied has negatively affected either property values or crime rates in the neighbourhood. Property values have increased and crime decreased in the period considered by the study."<sup>2</sup>



### Myth: Crime will increase.

Reality: A Canadian study of 146 supportive housing sites concluded that "there was no statistically significant evidence that supportive housing led to increased rates of reported violent, property, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct or total crimes."<sup>3</sup> In fact, the future occupants of new affordable housing often already live in the neighbourhood.

[1] Ontario HomeComing Coalition, Yes, In My Backyard – A Guide for Ontario Supportive Housing Providers, 2005, p. 27

[2] de Wolff, Alice. We are Neighbours: The Impact of Supportive Housing on Community, Social, Economic, and Attitude Changes, 2008, Wellesley Institute, p.iv.

[3] George Galster, Kathryn Pettit, Anna Santiago, and Peter Tatian, The Impact of Supportive Housing on Neighbourhood Crime Rates, 2002.

