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2020 OPERATING BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (Motion 1b)

Issue/Background:

On January 17, 2020, Budget Committee requested that the General Manager, Shelter Support and Housing Administration provide budget briefing notes on the following:

1. The number of shelter and respite clients who have been housed in private market housing over the past 5 years;
2. The number of refugees who have been housed from the City's Shelter system in the last 5 years on an annual basis;
3. The increase in the number of shelter and respite beds which have been constructed in surrounding municipalities over the last five years versus the increase in the City of Toronto; and
4. Housing allowances which have been offered to shelter clients over the last five years and the plan for future housing allowances to this population.

This briefing note responds to these requests.

Key Points:

Clients housed from shelters and respites

- The number of discharges to housing from Toronto's shelter system has been increasing each year since 2016, corresponding to the increased capacity of the shelter system.
- In 2016, just over 4,000 unique clients had discharges to housing. In 2019, the number grew to over 8,400 (see Figure 1).
- This increase in housing outcomes is largely due to the larger number of clients being served by Toronto's shelters and respite sites, as shelter system and respite site capacity has expanded by 76% from 4,319 beds in 2015 to 7,585 beds in 2019.
- Beginning in 2016, the City of Toronto changed the approach to tracking of discharges to housing in the Shelter Management Information System client database to improve reporting reliability. Comparable data from prior to 2016 is therefore not available.
- Figure 1 also shows the housing outcomes for refugee/asylum claimants as a subset of this total. The number of refugee/asylum claimant clients housed from

shelters and respites has also increased. This pattern is also related to the total number of clients served (see Table 1 below).

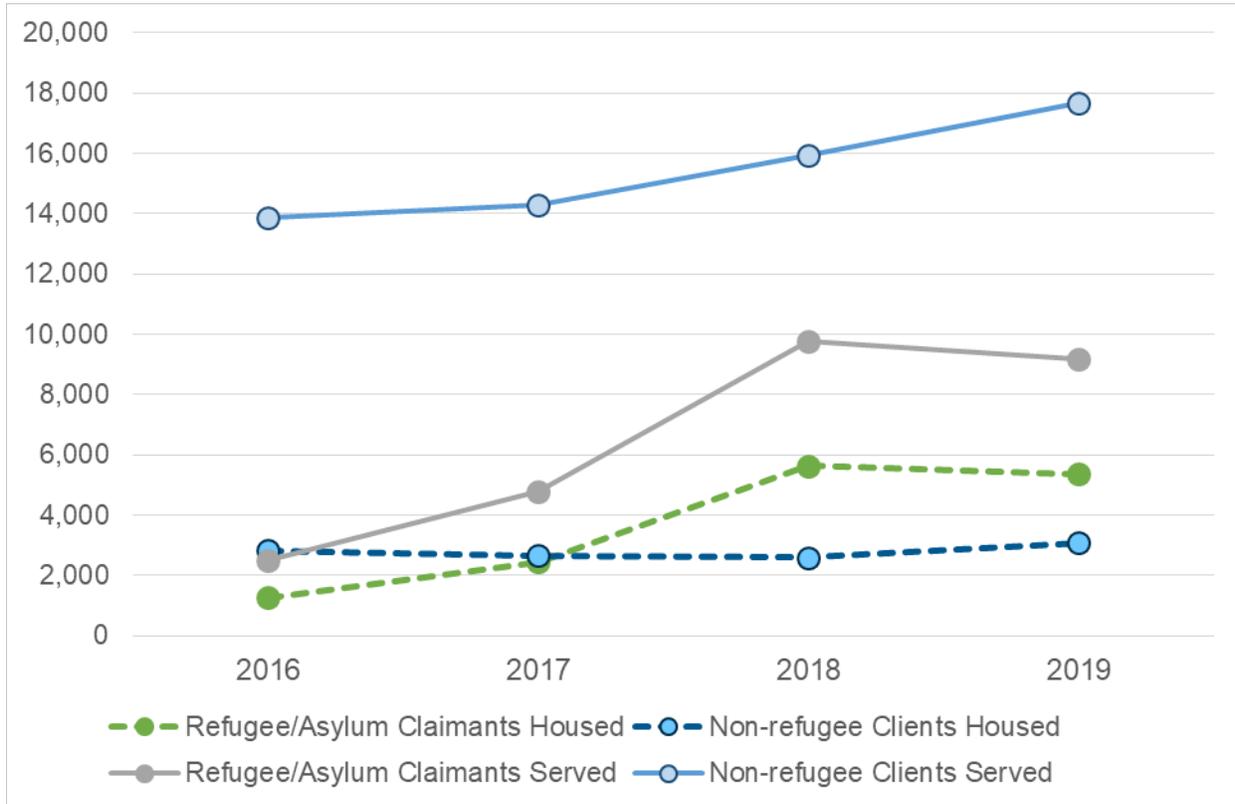


Figure 1: Clients served by and discharged to housing from shelters and respites, by refugee status

	Refugee/Asylum Claimants Housed	Non-refugee Clients Housed	Refugee/Asylum Claimants Served	Non-refugee Clients Served
2016	1,257	2,814	2,504	13,861
2017	2,451	2,643	4,780	14,264
2018	5,639	2,593	9,774	15,941
2019	5,352	3,072	9,155	17,673

Table 1: Clients served by and discharged to housing from shelters and respites, by refugee status

Increase in the number of shelter and respite spaces in the City of Toronto versus surrounding municipalities

- Data derived from the annual Municipal Benchmarking Network of Canada (MBNC) shows that Toronto is the only municipal region in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area that has been increasing its shelter system capacity (see Figure 2). These figures do not include the average 600 respite spaces added in Toronto.

- While Peel Region does not have shelter measures collected by MBNC, a new youth shelter in Brampton opened in early 2017, with 40 beds as of 2018 (per ESDC's National Service Provider List). According to this same data source, Mississauga has maintained about 486 beds from 2014 to 2018.

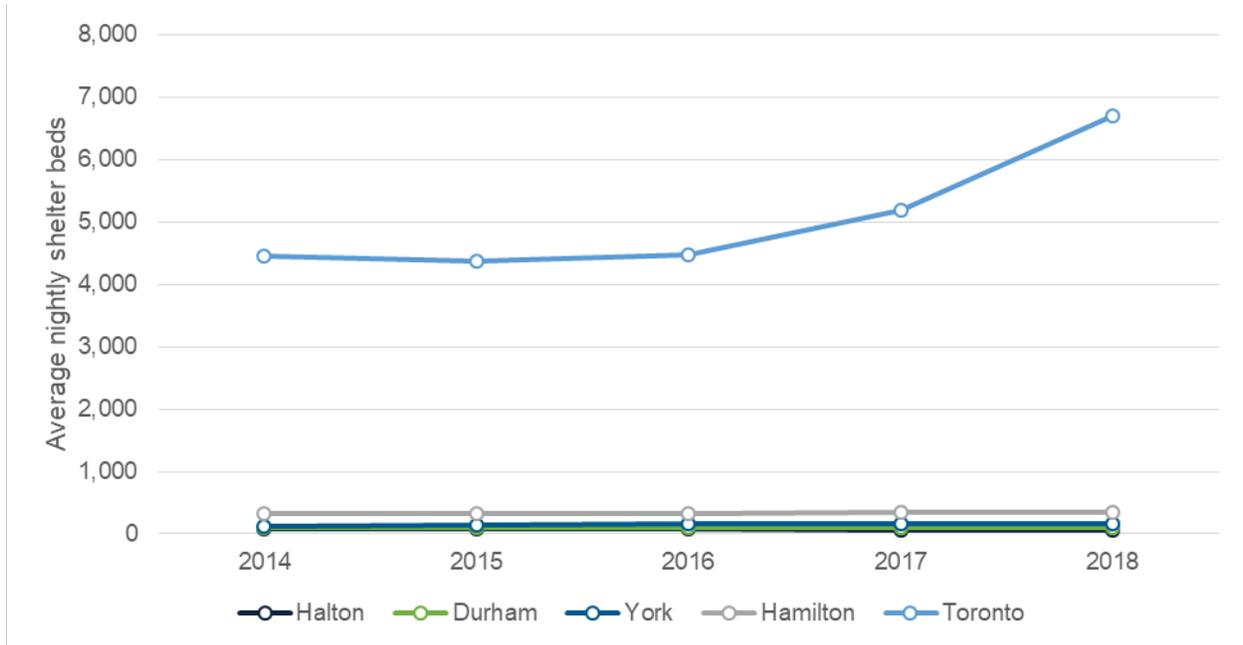


Figure 2: Average shelter beds by GTHA region (calculated from MBNC Emergency Shelter data)

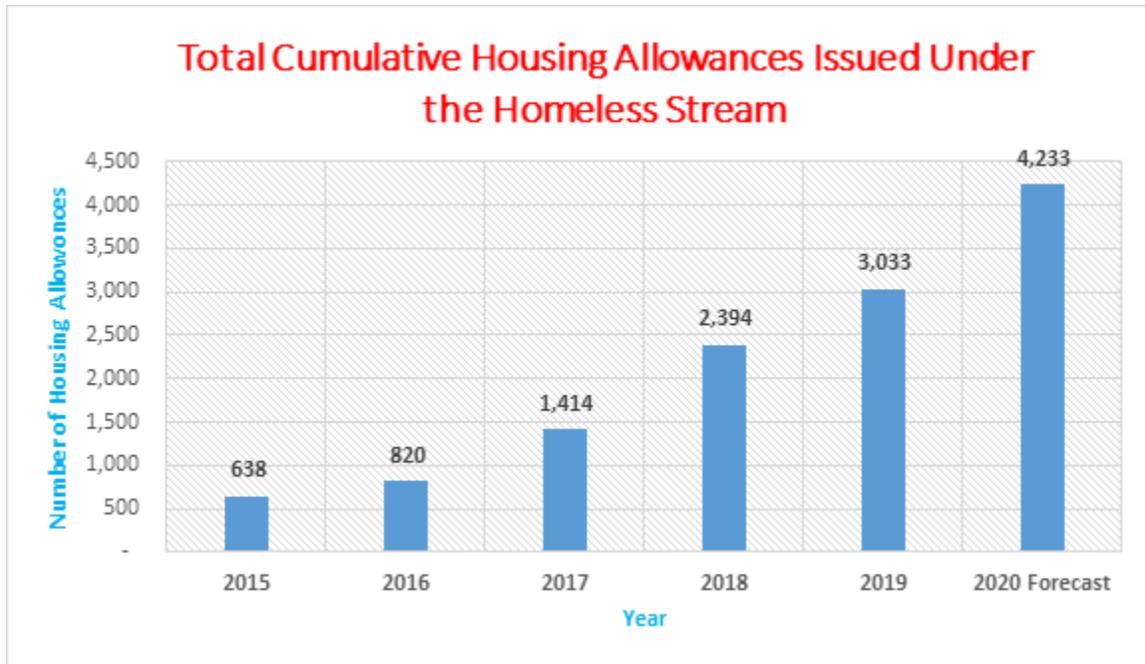
MBNC Estimated* Average Beds	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Durham	93	93	93	93	93
Halton	90	90	74	68	68
Hamilton	324	325	335	341	341
Toronto	4,454	4,378	4,463	5,193	6,687
York	114	143	158	158	160

Table 2: Average shelter beds by GTHA region (calculated from MBNC Emergency Shelter data)

*Note: MBNC does not directly report on shelter beds in each community, but does report on shelter beds per 100,000 population, so it is possible to calculate total beds by using each community's population for that year.

Housing allowances for clients from shelters

- Since 2015, a total of 8,299 housing allowances have been offered to shelter clients. This is an annual average of 1,659 per year.
- In 2020, SSHA plans to offer 4,233 housing allowances to shelter clients. This is the new level the SSHA plans to maintain moving forward.



- The province recently announced the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB), which will provide additional housing benefits from April 1, 2020 until March 31, 2029. Based on proposed provincial program guidelines, SSHA staff are currently exploring how the COHB can be leveraged to provide housing benefits that assist households experiencing homelessness to find and maintain housing.

Further information: Mina Fayez-Bahgat, Director, Program Support, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, 416-397-4161

Date: January 21, 2020