

AH3.5

TO PROSPERITY:

INTERIM POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

Affordable Housing Committee

Sept 3, 2015

46%
of Recent Immigrants
live in poverty

37%
of Female Lone Parents
live in poverty

33%
of People in Racialized Groups
live in poverty

30%
of People with Disabilities
live in poverty

37%
of Aboriginal People
live in poverty



Toronto will:

address the issues

create solutions

drive systemic change

By 2035, Toronto is a city with opportunities for all; a leader in the collective pursuit of justice, fairness and equity. We want to be renowned as a city where everyone has access to good jobs, adequate income, stable housing, affordable transportation, nutritious food, and supportive services.

Objectives



Address Immediate Needs

Ensure vital services are well funded, co-ordinated, and meet the immediate needs of those living in poverty



Create Pathways to Prosperity

Improve the quality of jobs in the city, attract investments to low-income areas, and ensure that City programs and services are integrated, client-centered, and focused on early intervention



Drive Systemic Change

Create a more accountable and participatory government that integrates reducing poverty and inequality as part of day-to-day business and decision making

Six Areas of Focus

1. Housing Stability
2. Access to Services
3. Transportation
4. Food Access
5. Quality Jobs and Living Wages
6. Institutional Change

Housing Stability

RECOMMENDATION:

1. *Improve the quality of all affordable rental housing, including private, public, non-profit, and co-operative housing.*

ACTIONS:

1.1 Enhance investments in repairs to existing social housing

1.2 Strengthen the enforcement of minimum housing standards

1.3 Expand incentive programs for landlords to improve the quality and energy efficiency of their units

1.4 Increase support and uptake of building energy retrofitting programs that lower hydro costs in affordable housing units

1.5 *Continue efforts to consult and develop an effective policy framework and enforcement strategy with respect to rooming houses.*

Housing Stability

RECOMMENDATION:



2. Support individuals and families with low income in securing quality, stable housing.

ACTIONS:

2.1 Provide more housing allowances

2.2 Promote financial literacy and advocacy tools that help people to secure housing and achieve financial stability

2.3 Provide more financial and social support to individuals transitioning away from unstable or insecure housing, including those leaving institutions (hospitals, jails), youth leaving child welfare services and families with children fleeing abuse

Housing Stability

RECOMMENDATION:

3. *Increase the availability of affordable housing in mixed income and inclusive, complete communities through investment and innovative policy strategies.*

ACTIONS:

3.1 Update and expand the City's menu of funding and other incentives for the development of new affordable housing

3.2 Affirm affordable housing as a first priority community benefit for any development applications where contributions are proposed pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act

3.3 Continue to advocate for the legislative changes necessary to enable inclusionary zoning to facilitate the delivery of new affordable housing in private developments



www.toronto.ca/toprosperity

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