

ATTACHMENT #1

UPDATE ON THE ONGOING COVID-19 EMERGENCY SHELTER RESPONSE

As part of the City's response to COVID-19, the Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Division opened 40 new temporary sites to create physical distancing in the shelter system and provide space for people to move indoors from encampments. Currently 25 locations are active, providing close to 2,300 spaces in new temporary shelters and hotel programs. Toronto's shelter system provides more than 6,000 spaces to support those experiencing homelessness in Toronto.

In total, since April more than 1,100 individuals sleeping outside in encampments have been referred to safe, inside spaces (shelter system including temporary shelters in hotels, interim and permanent housing).

However, demand for shelter services continues to remain high, with many individuals remaining in encampments despite these significant efforts. The winter services plan this year will add 620 additional spaces to ensure the City can provide safe indoor spaces and protect people sleeping outdoors from cold weather. This includes 400 additional shelter spaces, and 220 supportive housing units (in addition to 660 housing opportunities identified in the 8-12 week plan), which will be filled between December and February and free up additional shelter system capacity.

In addition to ensuring safe spaces are maintained in the shelter system, the City's COVID-19 response for homelessness has also prioritized a focus on assisting people to access permanent housing. Since March 2020, the City has permanently housed more than 2,800 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness through rent geared to income units and with housing allowances. This represents an increase of 50% increase in housing outcomes compared to the same time period last year.

Through the first phase of the response, SSHA worked closely with Toronto Community Housing to develop a Rapid Rehousing Initiative to identify vacancies that could be made available immediately to people currently in shelter system. Based on the success of this initial phase of the initiative, in which 325 units were occupied and 450 individuals housed, an additional 450 units are proposed to be filled over the next 3 months through the plan outlined in this report.

The success of the approach included matching people to units through our Coordinated Access system. A standardized tool is used to assess tenants' support needs and supports are provided to tenants to be successful in achieving housing stability. People were supported in all aspects of the move-in process, including unit viewings, reviewing leases, setting up apartments, and establishing connections with on-going follow up supports. The City also partnered with the Furniture Bank to set up the units for tenants when the move in, including providing furnishings and household items to help new tenants feel at home.