



EC28.9 COVID-19 Shelter Transition and Relocation Plan Update

March 24, 2022

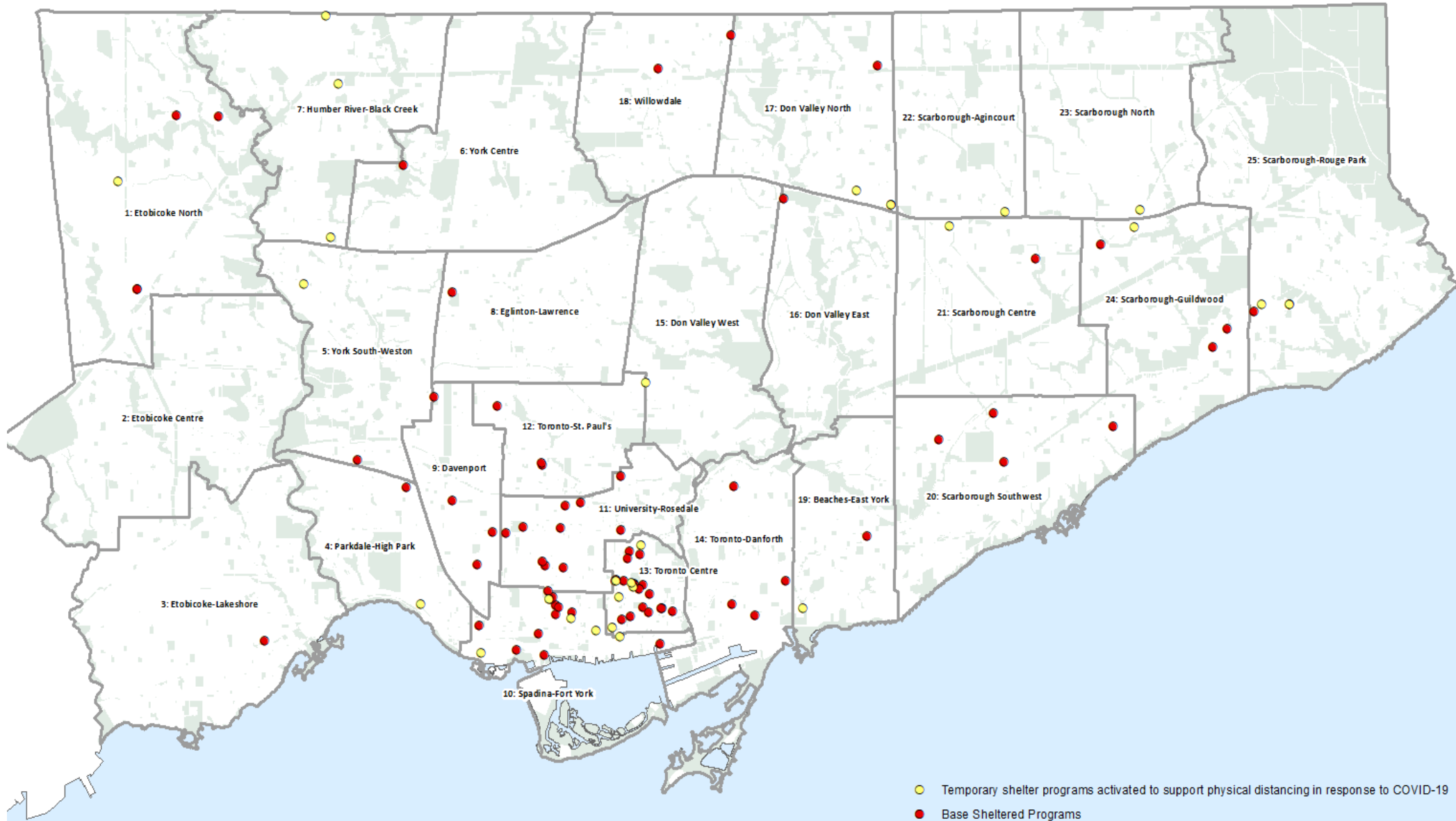
Economic and Community Development Committee



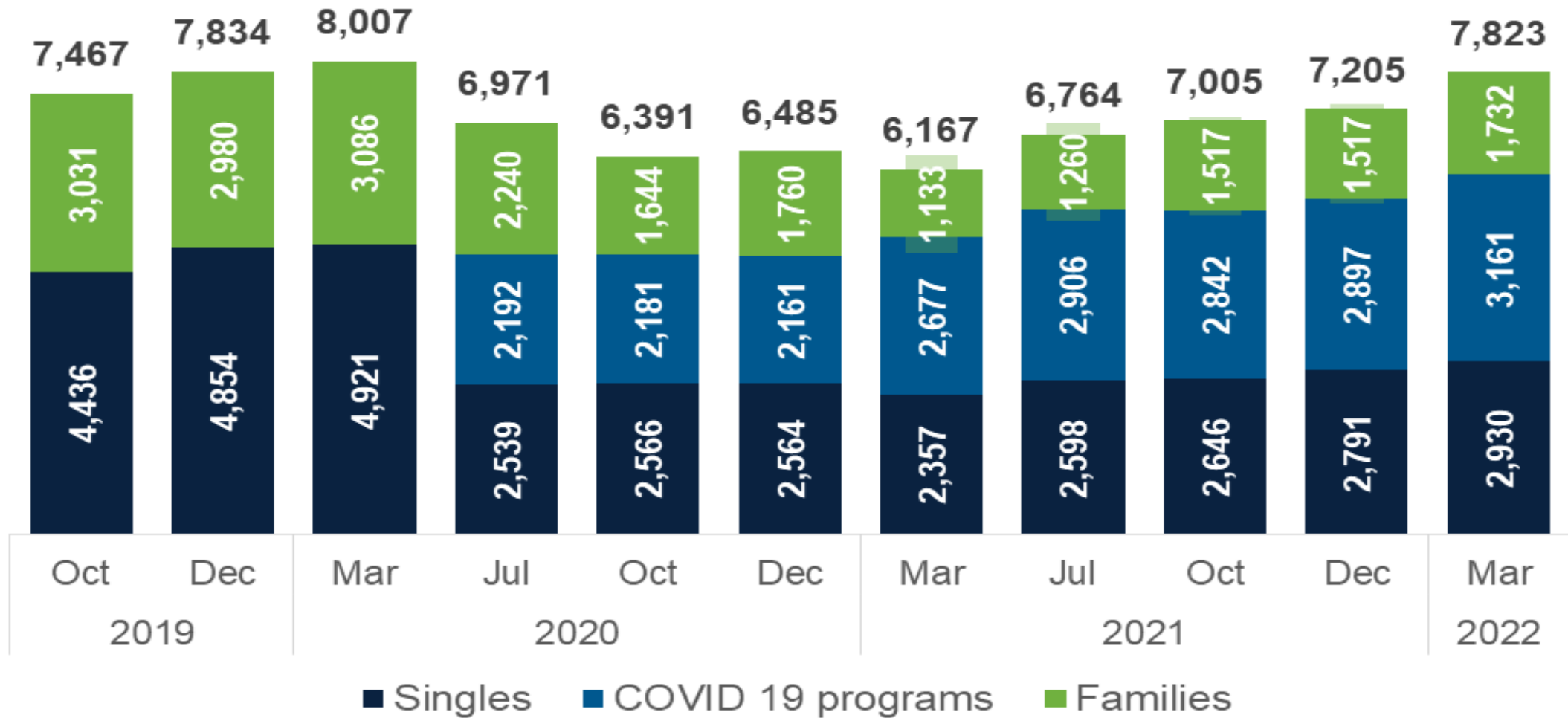
Outline

- Shelter system update
- Phased 24-month transition workplan
- Extending temporary sites
- Options to maintain shelter capacity
- Creation of a refugee specific shelter sector
- Continued focus on increasing housing opportunities

27 COVID-19 temporary sites



Current shelter system capacity



Phased 24-month Transition Workplan

1. Engagement process and learning from other cities
2. Extending temporary shelter locations while the phased transition plan is implemented
3. Decommissioning up to five (5) sites in 2022, with a focus on housing and offsetting shelter capacity
4. Restoring Temporary Sites as they are decommissioned
5. Creation of a dedicated refugee shelter sector to free up existing shelter capacity
6. Develop decommissioning plan for more sites in 2023, based on learning from the first phase and monitoring of key indicators

Extending temporary sites

- Staff recommend the use of most temporary shelters until at least April 2023 while the phased transition and relocation plan is implemented.
- This includes:
 - Extension of 12 leased hotel sites until April 30, 2023, as needed
 - Extension of 3 hotel sites secured through non-competitive blanket contracts until April 30, 2023, as needed
- Details of all temporary sites are included in Attachment 2

Decommissioning up to 5 sites in 2022

- Up to 5 temporary shelter sites will be decommissioned in 2022
- Focusing on a range of options to offset this shelter capacity and increase housing opportunities
- Two locations 195 Princes' Blvd. and 1684 Queen St. East – will be decommissioned in spring 2022
- Decommissioning will be determined based on:
 - Continued availability of sites through negotiations with property owners
 - Further criteria will include operational suitability, current state of good repair, cost, and geographic location

Maintaining shelter capacity while reducing chronic homelessness

- Range of options to offset shelter system capacity:
 - Creation of additional dedicated refugee program capacity
 - Increase occupancy in remaining temporary sites, where feasible
 - Returning some capacity to the base shelter system
 - Increasing housing outcomes through new supportive housing
 - Exploring options to acquire sites for permanent shelter or housing

Creation of a refugee specific sector

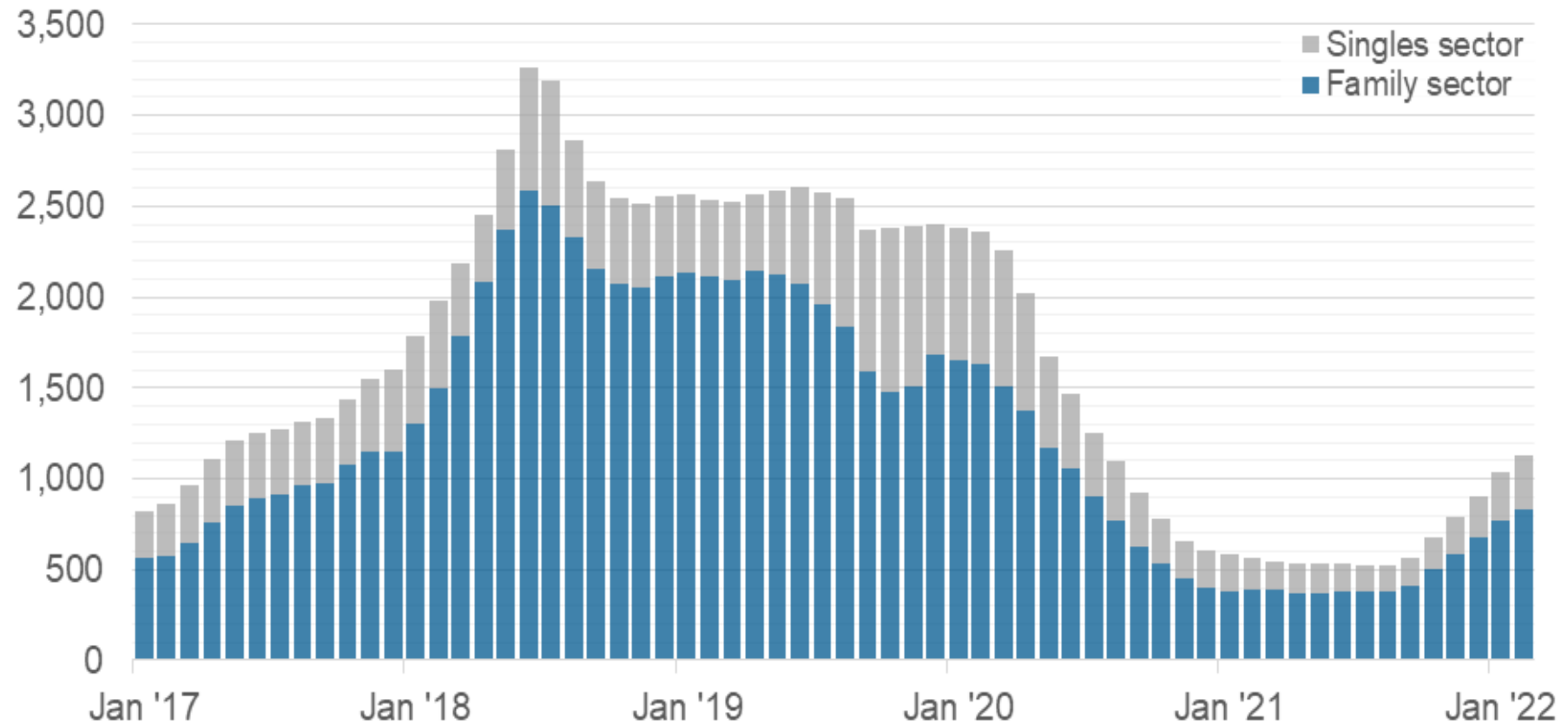


Figure 2: Average nightly occupancy by sector, refugees and refugee claimants

Options to return some shelter capacity

- Begin exploring various options for revised personal space standards in shelters
- SSHA will work with Toronto Public Health to develop a revised Shelter Standards Directive that allows for a safe increase of capacity within those existing sites
- A return to previous standard of 0.75m laterally between beds is not contemplated at this time
- Will build on the existing Shelter Design and Technical Guidelines for shelters which move away from large dorm settings and encourage the use of fewer beds per sleeping area

Housing affordability continues to be significant shelter system pressure

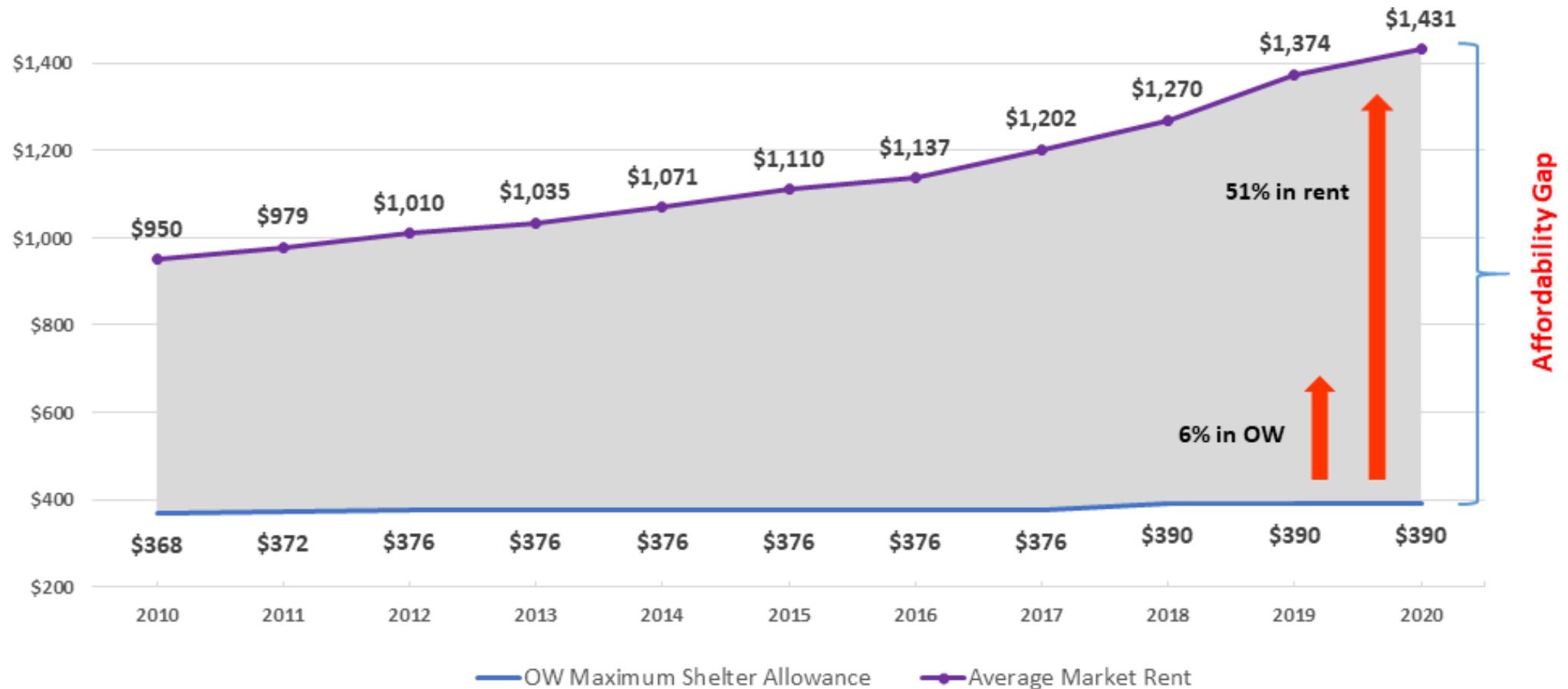


Figure 4: Affordability Gap between OW Shelter Allowance and Average Market Rent for a 1 bedroom Unit in Toronto

Focus on permanent housing

- Through the 24-month Housing and Homelessness Plan, more than 2,800 homes planned to be delivered in 2022
- This includes additional 300 housing opportunities approved by Council in February 2022 through the Accelerated Housing Plan
- Will support efforts to reduce chronic homelessness and transition people from temporary sites



Next steps

- Engagement process launched with temporary site service providers, people experiencing homelessness staying at temporary sites, and the homelessness sector to further inform implementation of the plan
- Regular updates will be provided at www.toronto.ca/physicaldistancingshelters
- Staff will report back in the first quarter of 2023 with an update on the first phase and next steps for phase 2 of the plan
- This will include an update on key indicators to measure shelter demand and progress on housing outcomes



Thank you