

Supportive Housing Evaluation

Presentation to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee

February 6, 2025





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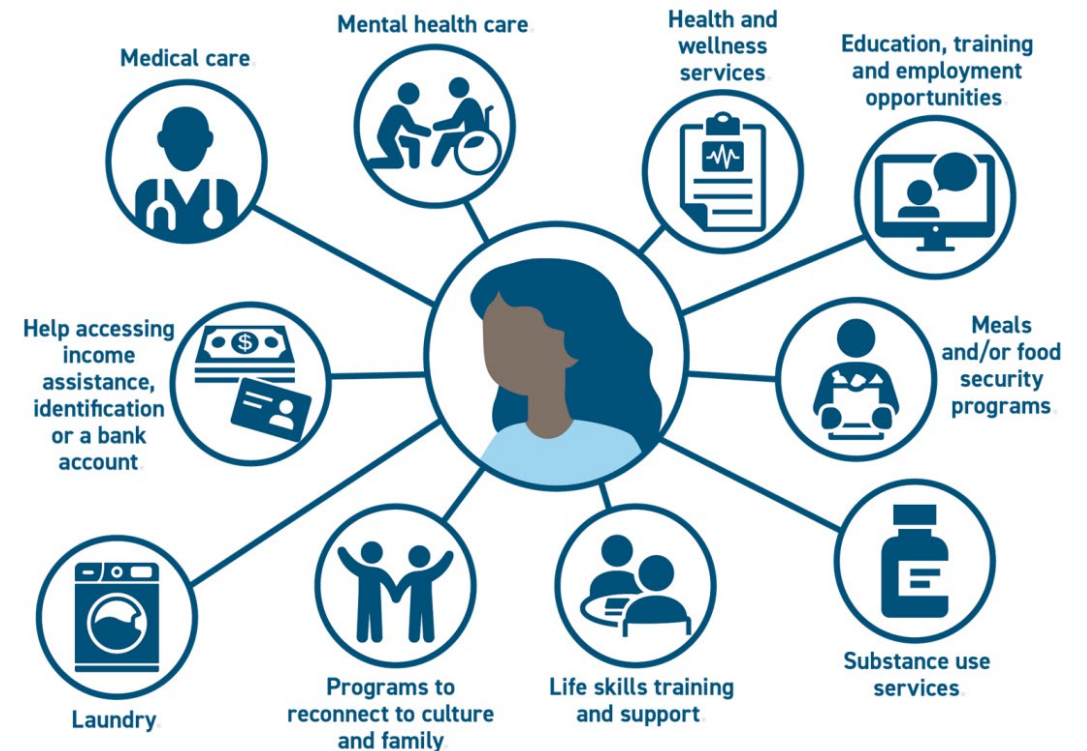
HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan

- The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan (“HousingTO Plan”), Canada’s first human rights-based housing plan, was adopted by City Council in December 2019.
 - Provides a blueprint for actions and investments across the full housing continuum over the next 10 years
 - Sets targets for approval of 18,000 supportive homes by 2030, as well as other affordable housing, protecting existing supply, and enhancing housing stability and eviction prevention measures.

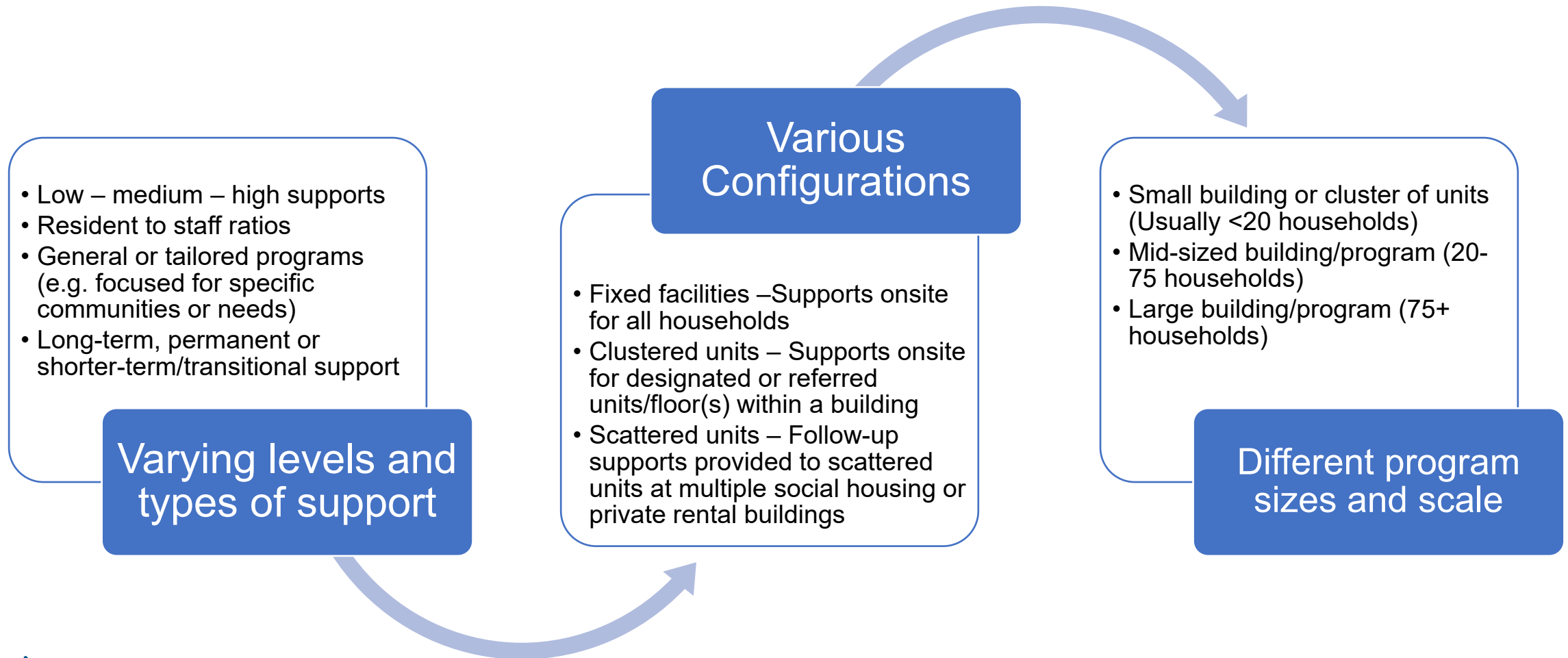


What is Supportive Housing?

- Supportive housing provides an affordable rental home with individualized health and social supports, that help people to improve their housing stability, health and well-being
- Supportive housing is:
 - Affordable and in most cases, rent-geared-to-income;
 - Designed to provide access to a range of services that support residents to live independently and improve their housing stability, health and socio-economic outcomes; and
 - Based on tenant choice, and provides the same rights and obligations for tenants and landlords as other rental housing.
- Prioritized for individuals who are experiencing homelessness, particularly chronic homelessness.



Supportive Housing Models



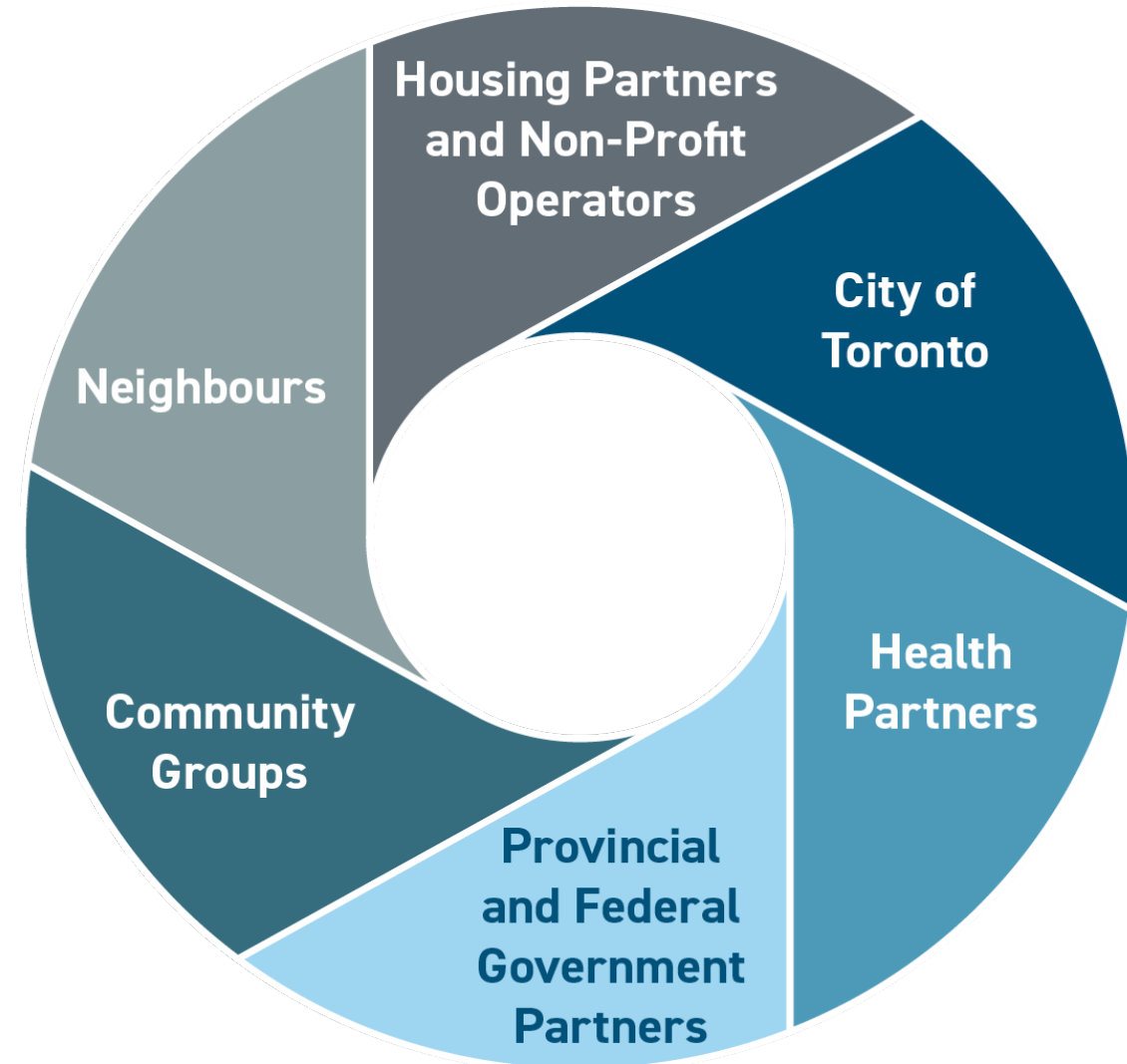
Supportive Housing System

- Supportive housing in Ontario is supported through a complex system of federal, provincial, municipal, and non-government partners
- Historically a provincial responsibility, the City has taken a growing role in expanding and strengthening the supportive housing system

Government	Roles & Key Programs
Federal	National policy and funding framework, through National Housing Strategy, and delivery of key funding programs (e.g. Rapid Housing Initiative) National policy requirements including Coordinated Access system
Provincial	Several ministries directly involved in funding the delivery of supportive housing (MMAH, MOHTLC, MCCSS). Responsible for the legislative framework around social and affordable housing, landlord/tenant rights, as well as for health and mental health care systems
Municipal – Toronto	Local service manager responsible for implementing local strategies (e.g. HousingTO Action Plan). Manage the homelessness service system and implement a Coordinated Access system Delivery of federal/provincial funding programs

Whole of Government & Whole of Community Approach

- The City's delivery of new supportive housing has depended on partnerships across the public, non-profit, private, and community sectors:
 - Federal capital funding
 - Provincial operating funding for support services
 - City land, capital funding and incentives, and project delivery
 - Non-profit project delivery, and ongoing operation of the homes
 - Connections with community-based health and supportive services



Strategies to Create New Supportive Homes

The City and its non-profit partners have pursued a number of strategies to quickly create new supportive housing opportunities:

- New modular construction on City-owned or controlled land
- Acquisition and conversion of non-residential properties (such as motels, hotels)
- Leveraging existing supply and layering on support services
- Funding the delivery of new supportive housing by non-profit and Indigenous partners.



Since 2020, the City has approved or created almost 4,000 new supportive housing opportunities:

- 1,013 new homes built, and 750 in development
- 2,117 through the Rapid Rehousing Initiative

Coordinated Access to Supportive Housing

- Coordinated Access is a systems-level approach to addressing homelessness that provides a fair and consistent way of assessing, prioritizing and connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing and supports. It is a key component of City's approach to housing and homelessness and is mandated by provincial and federal governments.
- The City's Toronto Shelter & Support Services Division (TSSS) manages the Coordinated Access program, which also includes a specialized pathway to connecting residents to supportive housing opportunities (Priority Access to Housing and Supports (PATHS)) .
- Through PATHS, tenants are referred from City-funded overnight services (shelters, 24-hour drop-ins, hotel/motel programs) or street outreach programs, and Indigenous-serving community agencies, to available homes with support services.
- Standardized assessment tools are used to ensure that the support needs of referred tenants can be met by the supportive housing provider.
- Non-profit supportive housing providers in receipt of City benefits (e.g. support services funding and/or housing benefits) are required to participate in Coordinated Access, and submit details of vacant units, including the availability of supports to ensure that the right matches are made.

Launching the Evaluation

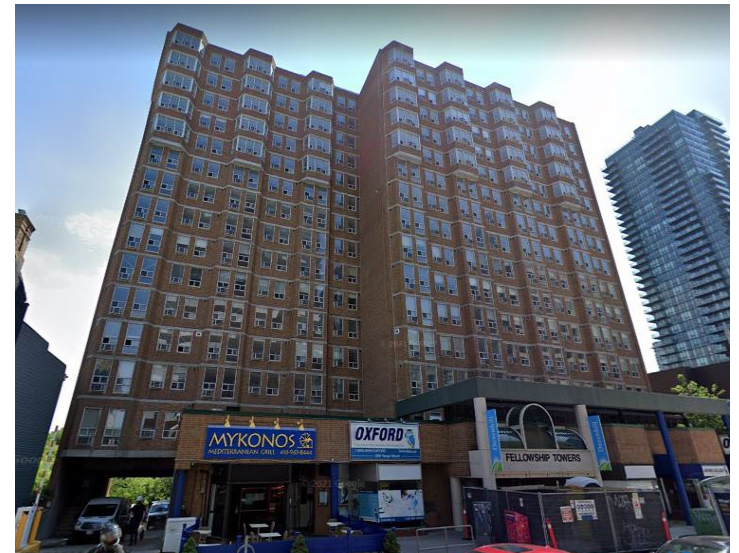
- To assess our progress and identify opportunities for continuous improvement, the Housing Secretariat has hired an external evaluation consultation, Blueprint, to evaluate supportive housing programs operating in the City. This evaluation was also directed by Council through [PH1.9](#) in 2023.
- The evaluation will include a variety of program types including permanent supportive housing sites, such as modular or Rapid housing sites, as well as the Rapid Rehousing Initiative.
- Blueprint, a Toronto-based non-profit, was selected through a competitive RFP process, and bring experience working in housing, homelessness, and social services alongside individuals from equity-deserving groups to recommend real world solutions for complex systems

The evaluation will take an approach rooted in the principles of housing as a human right, particularly when engaging with service providers, their staff, and equity-deserving communities. Trauma-informed and culturally responsive approaches to engagement and analysis of research findings will be critical.

Evaluation Goals and Scope

Key objectives include:

- Evaluating the efficacy of supportive housing programs with respect to **tenant outcomes, including impact on housing stability, tenant health, mental health and well-being**, and whether tenants are matched to the right level of support (recognizing that support needs can change over time)
- Evaluate the **relationship between supportive housing programs and local communities**
- Identify and recommend actions and **strategies to strengthen supportive housing programs**, including recommendations for all levels of government to strengthen and grow the supportive housing system



Evaluation Goals and Scope

- The Consultant will lead at minimum 10 key informant interviews with supportive housing providers and other supportive housing stakeholders as identified by the City.
- The Consultant will also lead at minimum 6 focus groups that will be held with those **with lived and/or living experience** in supportive housing, and program staff, as part of the evaluation.
- Engagements will be strengths-based, trauma-informed, and ensure culture and gender-based safety.
 - Blueprint has experience taking this approach, from previous work with youth experiencing homelessness, women fleeing gender-based violence, and Indigenous communities

Draft Timelines – Subject to Change

- January 2025: RFP Award and Project Launch
- February 2025: First consultation with HRAC on approach
- Spring: Data collection, community engagement
- June 2025: Second consultation with HRAC on findings, draft recommendations



QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!