

UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED SHELTER AT 1220 Wilson Ave.

May 27, 2025

Last December the City of Toronto announced the first six locations of its Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS). One of these is on a City-owned site at 1220 Wilson Ave. This facility will be operated directly by the City of Toronto as a municipal shelter that will provide critical services to help approximately 80 people experiencing homelessness, with a focus on specialized medical support.

While the construction of this shelter is not expected to start for some time, the City has committed to engaging with local residents as the plans are developed. This will include communicating details about the shelter development process, responding to community feedback, inquiries and concerns and providing ongoing updates. Public Progress is leading this community engagement process and looks forward to working with the City and the local communities to support the successful integration of the shelter into the neighbourhood.

The first public community consultation about 1220 Wilson will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 and will be a rezoning meeting that will include a number of shelter sites around the city. While a municipal shelter is already permitted at 1220 Wilson Ave., City staff will be proposing minor zoning amendments to allow for an improved built form. A shelter can still proceed and open without this re-zoning amendment but doing so will allow the City to build a space that optimizes use of the land.

Additionally, we are looking at having an in-person event in the coming weeks to share more information about the shelter. More information about this event will be shared soon.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

What type of programming will be at this site?

The shelter at 1220 Wilson Ave. will be purpose-built to meet the needs of approximately 80 individuals. This includes offering specialized medical supports on-site for individuals experiencing homelessness who are isolating and/or recovering from illness.

To support the development of the program, the City will be exploring key partnerships with health stakeholders including Humber River Hospital. Shelters are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provide emergency accommodation, meals, laundry and case managers to help individuals develop housing plans. Sites also feature wrap-around supports, such as employment readiness, physical and mental health supports and referrals, and recreational programming.

This area already has a number of shelters - why add more here?

The City of Toronto continues to experience unprecedented demand and pressure for shelter services. Shelter demand is increasing for many reasons including, but not limited to, insufficient affordable housing supply, increased costs of living, and inadequate wage and income supports. With many people unable to access shelter beds each night, there are increased people sleeping outdoors and in encampments. As part of the COVID-19 Shelter Transition and Relocation Plan, existing temporary shelters in hotels will also eventually close.

The shelter at 1220 Wilson Ave. will allow the City to maintain shelter beds while creating specialized and purpose-built shelters for people experiencing homelessness.

How are people placed in shelters and where will they be coming from?

Homelessness is a challenge across the city and shelters are being established across Toronto to address this. Clients are often referred to shelters and other overnight accommodation through Central Intake, a City-operated, 24/7 telephone-based service. Central Intake staff track vacancies and work to refer new clients to shelter system spaces that meet their needs as they become available.

Next Steps

To register for the May 28 meeting, or for additional information, please visit www.toronto.ca/1220Wilson.

To stay informed about the City shelter project at 1220 Wilson Ave., please email 1220WilsonAve@gmail.com.

toronto.ca/1220Wilson