



Report To:	Program Planning Committee
From:	Donna Stewart, Director of Integrated Social Services Rhonda McCauley, Social Housing Program Supervisor Patrick Wittmann, Supervisor of Infrastructure & Asset Management
Date:	May 23, 2018
Re:	10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan - 2018 Progress Report

Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the DSB Board and the Ministry of Housing with a year four (4) update on the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan targets, objectives, and progress achieved for the DSB for the 2017 calendar year.

Background

Through the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) and with the passing of the Housing Services Act (HSA), 2011, the Province completed the devolution of Ontario's affordable housing to municipalities. The Province required the development of a [10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan](#) to reflect certain principles or 'interests' that the government had prescribed in addition to considering and responding to local needs.

The Province outlined basic requirements for the content:

- plans must identify current and future housing needs,
- set objectives and targets related to identified needs,
- describe actions to meet these goals, and
- indicate how the process will be measured.

Year One 2015 Report

The [Year One report](#) of the Plan was presented to the Board on June 25, 2015 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing on June 30, 2015.

Year Two 2016 Report

The [Year Two Report](#) of the Plan was presented to the Board on June 23, 2016 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing on June 24, 2016.

Year Three 2017 Report

The [Year Three Report](#) of the Plan was presented to the Board on June 21, 2017 and submitted to the Ministry of Housing on June 22, 2017.

Year Four 2018 Report

This Year Four report on the Plan includes a review of the priorities that were the response to the accumulation of data and research pertaining to housing, income, and homelessness gathered from within the DSB at the time the Plan was developed. The priorities overlap and complement one another, with an integrated approach focused on addressing housing and homelessness in the ten-year period. Many priorities involve continuing and building on existing initiatives that the DSB has in place, as well as increasing its efficiency and capacity as a community partner around housing and homelessness. Integrated service delivery and enhanced evaluation are frequently emphasized components to many of the priorities. The priorities also evolve over time as opportunities for new initiatives arise.

The fourteen (14) priorities of the Plan are as follows and actions reported accordingly.

#1 Understand and Respond to the District's Demographic

- The tenant and applicant demographic remained consistent with previous year, and hence we continue to monitor and respond to local need.

#2 Strong Emphasis on Seniors Required – Housing and Supports

- The [Ontario Renovates Program](#) will continue to assist seniors and their ability to 'age at home'.
- Direct Shelter subsidy (DSS) program expanded to include a municipal funding portion for Seniors who own their home receiving funding under this initiative.
- DSB has worked with the Community of St.-Charles to achieve designation of an Age-Friendly Community to support the Municipality with this goal.

#3 Implement Strategies to Support Overlooked Populations – Aboriginals, Youth, Non-Senior Persons with Disabilities, and Individuals who are Homeless

- The Transitional Community Support Worker (TCSW) Pilot is complete and the position has become full-time support for the LaCloche Area. Additional Pilot undertaken for Manitoulin Island with funding granted in 2018.
- Continue to advocate with the Provincial Government to reevaluate the reductions to the Youth Job Connection program. This work is still ongoing. We have made some improvements whereby the statistics and allocation have increased in the Sudbury North Region only.

#4 Address Additional Gaps in Services that Contribute to Imminent Risk of Homelessness

- Continue to use a pre-screening tool to ensure that the applicants with the highest need are prioritized for the Affordable Housing Program.
- Housing Applicants are also receiving priority based on need on the Housing Waiting List.

#5 Imperative Action on Improving Transportation Accessibility Required

- Continue to operate the DSB van fleet that assists with the transportation of clients to education facilities.

#6 Employment and Training Opportunities

- The DSB continues to establish local community partnerships for employment and training opportunities with the Chapleau Learning Centre, Alpha en Partage, Collège Boréal, Cambrian College and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA). New and creative programs as generated based on community needs.

#7 Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Housing

- Social Housing Improvement Program (SHIP) work was completed at the Non-Profit Housing providers (Gore Bay Municipal Non-Profit, Little Current Place Municipal Non-Profit, Espanola Municipal Non-Profit, Native People of Sudbury Development Corporation, Cochrane-Temiskaming Native Housing Corporation) and Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB building (76 Wellington) to improve energy efficiency and sustainability of the housing stock.

#8 Innovation and Efficiency with Affordable Housing

- We continue to adapt and improve the [Direct Shelter Subsidy Program](#) to assist with maintaining affordable accommodations to singles and families on Ontario Works and Ontario Support Disability Program with higher than Shelter Component costs.

- Increase in recipients receiving funding by approximately 23% over 2016.
- The DSB was successful in receiving grant under the province's Innovation, Evidence and Capacity Building fund to research energy efficiency across Northern Ontario Social Housing.
- Met with the Northern Ontario Service Delivers Association and the NE-LHIN to review and prioritize the strategic plan to guide innovative housing with Health Support in Northeastern Ontario. The 43-recommendation report was narrowed down to focus on 5 common Northern priorities.

#9 Increase Opportunities by Increasing Knowledge Dissemination

- Semi-annual staff development meetings focus on relevant topics based on current social climate as well as staff needs. 2017 focused on Staff Mental Health.
- Staff undertake various workshops and training opportunities relevant to position, that provide enhanced opportunity for client engagement.

#10 Spearhead Integrated Service Delivery

- The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB works within a full-integration model across all programs to provide the greatest service to clients.
- Integrated Annual Reviews
- Integrated Tenant Complaint system
- Updated Application to support ease of reporting

#11 Increased Advocacy Roles for Civic Leaders

- The Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) was expanded through the Investment in Affordable Housing program commitment through to 2020 allowing the program to continue past the former expiry date of the program.

#12 Increase Program Evaluations

- Program Surveys have been updated and are being encouraged throughout the program portfolio. Monthly review of survey results at the Supervisor/Director of ISS level for any issues to be addressed timely.

#13 Closely Monitor the Release of RFPs and Opportunities for Funding

- Home for Good funding request was denied due to funding allocation shortfalls because of many Service Manager Requests. We continue to monitor similar funding opportunities to expand the Transitional Community Support Worker Program across the District.

- Partnership with NELHIN and CMHA continues to fund and support the Transitional Community Support Worker expansion.
- The DSB in partnership with the University of Guelph was successful in receiving a grant from the Provinces Innovation, Evidence and Capacity Building fund (\$69,320) for a research project (one of nine grants awarded province-wide) seeking to unlock the massive potential for energy savings in the social housing sector by:
 - Building sector-wide capacity for planning and implementing energy upgrades including developing best-practice guidelines for Northern Ontario providers.
 - Improving sector-wide readiness when responding to Government Grant programs.
 - Informing government policy and program development for future energy retrofit programs so that Northern Ontario housing providers gain eligibility to social housing retrofit programs.

#14 Rationalizing the Social Housing Stock

- The DSB continues to review the current housing stock, and review opportunities to purpose-serve our communities.
- Review of current policies is ongoing.

Conclusion

We will continue to work towards addressing each recommendation and continuing with the work achieved thus far. We believe in our 10-year plan and will continue to work towards ensuring our communities benefit from our commitment.