



*The Community Housing Division of Renfrew County provides services to residents that help with housing maintenance, stability, and affordability. As part of an integrated network of services, the Community Housing Division works collaboratively with the County of Renfrew Child Care and Ontario Works Divisions to ensure a 'no wrong door' approach for those seeking supports across multiple programs.*

*The 2013 Housing and Homelessness Plan entitled "A Place to Call Home" was designed through community consultation and formed a 10-year strategic plan to establish goals and actions to address housing needs. The plan was updated during 2019 and again during 2021. [The June 2021 Plan Update](#) references the County of Renfrew's Seniors' Housing Strategy along with housing pressures that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*This annual report provides a review of our strategies, services, and accomplishments.*



## 2021 Housing and Homelessness Annual Report

### Vision

For all County of Renfrew residents to have a place to call home.

### Goals and Objectives

- 1. Housing people who do not have a home**
  - a. Take a housing first approach
  - b. Improve access to housing and support needs
- 2. Preventing homelessness and maintaining housing**
  - a. Reinforce homelessness prevention
  - b. Improve access to support services and programs
  - c. Engage senior levels of government
  - d. Increase housing awareness and promote housing stability
- 3. Ensuring an adequate supply and choice of housing**
  - a. Retain and increase supportive and affordable housing
  - b. Encourage development and investment in affordable, accessible, and supportive housing
  - c. Support affordable home ownership opportunities
- 4. Improving coordination and capacity within the system**
  - a. Enhance effectiveness and coordination with housing partners
  - b. Improve awareness of housing services and programs

### Homelessness Survey – October 18, 2021

A Point-In-Time Count homelessness survey was completed throughout Renfrew County to capture demographic information about people who were experiencing homelessness. The data collected does not represent the full extent of homelessness. The results reflect data for those who chose to participate and who happened to attend a survey site during the enumeration week.

#### Survey Results:

- 46 households disclosed current homelessness
- 41% of the households were homeless with children
- 24% identified as being indigenous
- 50% identified as female, 46% identified as male, 4% as transgender
- 74% were between 25 and 64 years of age, 17% were under 25 and 9% were 65 or over
- There was a clear link between disclosed poor health status and homelessness
- 63% of the respondents were homeless for more than 6 months

## By-Name Homelessness Enumeration



The County of Renfrew has partnered with [Built for Zero Canada \(BFZC\)](#) and local community groups to help reduce chronic homelessness. BFZC is an ambitious national change effort that is helping a core group of leading communities end chronic homelessness. A By-Name List Survey has been created to better know every person experiencing homeless, to understand their unique needs, and to prioritize service and housing supports. If your or someone close to you is experiencing homelessness, please contact us. Alternatively, you may complete the survey online and we will connect with you by the phone or email address you provide. [Click here for the survey.](#)

## Emergency Housing Assistance

Please contact Ontario Works for assistance during business hours (Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m at **1-866-897-4849**.

The after-hours homelessness emergency line is open 7 days per week between 4:00 p.m and 10:00 p.m at **1-888-888-2491**.

If you are experiencing a crisis, please contact Mental Health Services of Renfrew County at **1-866-966-0991**. This line is open 24 hours, 7 days per week.

## Rent-Geared-to-Income and Affordable Housing Inventory

**Renfrew County Housing Corporation (locations across Renfrew County)** – 1020 Rent-Geared-to-Income units that includes 19 apartments, 57 single family homes, 150 duplexes, and 217 townhouses.

**Non-Profit Housing Providers** (provide a mix of Rent-Geared-to-Income and Affordable Market Rent units):

- Kinsmen Court Home (Pembroke) – 25 one-bedroom units
- St. Joseph Non-Profit Housing Corporation (Pembroke) – 90 one-bedroom units for seniors; 50 family units consisting of 2, 3, and 4-bedroom townhouses.
- Baskin Place (Arnprior) – 24 one-bedroom units for seniors
- Petawawa Housing Corporation—35 units for seniors
- Killaloe and District Housing Inc—28 units for seniors

**Affordable Housing Projects** – 5 complexes were developed with federal and provincial funding since 2006.

- Central Station Lofts (Arnprior)—19 units
- West Station Lofts (Arnprior)—19 units
- Fairfields Senior Living (Eganville) 12 + 24 units
- Petawawa Housing Corporation—14 units

## Rent Allowance and Subsidy Programs

**Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program** – 26 households received rent-geared-to-income supplements within private market rentals.

**Investment In Affordable Housing Direct Delivery Program**—17 households received a \$250 per month rent subsidy.

**Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Rent Allowance Program-** (Monthly average) 103 single households received a rent allowance of \$275 per month and 38 households with children received a rent allowance of \$375 per month.

**Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (April 2020-March 2021)** – 115 households received a monthly rent subsidy. The average subsidy was \$249 per month.

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## Homelessness Prevention Program

- Funded by the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) and the Social Services Relief Fund
- Assistance provided to help with housing emergencies, including emergency hotel stays, rent deposits, rent arrears, utility arrears, transportation, and extraordinary expenses
- During 2021, 1258 households were assisted.
- The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a greater need for housing supports that included unprecedented levels of emergency hotel stays, rent and utility arrears, as well as food security needs



### Emergency Minor Home Repairs

9 households were approved for emergency minor home repair expenses up to \$5000 (examples: roof, furnace, chimney, and septic repairs).

### Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)

\$626,335.00 was allocated to the County of Renfrew by the Province and was used to fund capital repairs at Renfrew County Housing Corporation rental properties. The projects included roof, chimney, and siding repairs at 6 different properties/residential complexes.

### Canada Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)

\$558,124.05 was allocated to the County of Renfrew jointly by the Province and Canada and was used to fund capital repairs at Renfrew County Housing Corporation rental properties. The projects included roof repairs and sidewalk repairs to promote accessibility at 9 different properties/residential complexes.

Maintaining social housing stock is of critical importance in ensuring the continued and future availability of safe and affordable housing.

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