

Report

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Subject: 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan Annual Update for 2025

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Overview: The County of Dufferin has continued its efforts to address housing and homelessness in Dufferin County. This document provides highlights of Dufferin's efforts in 2025. The County of Dufferin is currently updating its Housing and Homelessness Plan for the next ten years.

Key Initiatives: In 2025, County of Dufferin and its community partners sought to plan and create additional housing units and integrate health and human service delivery. Progress continued on hub models as services became more coordinated and centralized, and culturally appropriate services were provided to Indigenous clients. The following initiatives directly and indirectly address housing and homelessness in Dufferin County:

Dufferin County Master Housing Strategy Update - [Final-Dufferin-County-Master-Housing-Strategy.pdf](#)

- Proposed 12 supportive housing units at 22 3rd Avenue, Orangeville.
- Proposed 16 back-to-back townhouses at 301 First Street, Shelburne. Larger one-bedroom units, or alternative option for fewer larger family-sized units.
- Proposed 32-unit apartment building at 35 Elizabeth Street, Orangeville.

Dufferin Housing and Homelessness Task Force

- Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Dufferin County Homelessness Task Force on September 12, 2024, with a mandate to explore sustainable housing solutions, strengthen support networks, and align efforts with County strategies.
- On January 9, 2025, Council approved the recruitment format for the Task Force through the Selection Committee – Homelessness Task Force. Formal appointments of Task Force members were confirmed at the March 13, 2025, Council meeting.

- Since March 2025, the Task Force has met monthly, receiving presentations from key service providers and touring local housing and shelter sites to understand existing supports and identify service gaps.
- The Task Force developed recommendations for Council grouped into four strategic areas: Education & Awareness, Housing Stock, Process & Policies, and Advocacy.

HART Hub

- Homeless and Addiction Recovery Treatment hubs are designed to connect individuals experiencing homelessness, addiction, and/or mental health issues with comprehensive services. Led by SHIP, the Orangeville location had its soft opening in late 2025.

Health and Human Services Hub

- In February 2025, planning was underway to create a Health and Human Services Hub at the Edelbrock Centre. The Health and Human Services Hub will improve access to care and community-based services through a centralized and coordinated approach. A model that coordinates and centralizes services has the potential to be compassionate, robust and cost-effective.

Care Days

- County staff supported Care Days in 2025. Care Days are led by the Hills of Headwaters Ontario Health Team. They aim to deliver an integrated approach to supporting vulnerable populations in Dufferin/Caledon by increasing access to health and social care in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment. County staff provided housing supports at these events.

Additional units added

- 5 National Housing Strategy units were added. While the funding streams remain consistent, phase 3 of the National Housing Strategy (NHS) placed enhanced focus on expanding the supply of rent-assisted units. As part of Ontario's commitment under the NHS, the Province has committed to create 19 660 rent-assisted units by March 31st, 2028, of which 7 units were assigned to the County. The Housing Team has secured 5 out of the 7 units as of the end of 2025 and are on track to meet this goal.
- Prior to the implementation of phase 3 of the NHS, the County added 3 rent supplement units to its portfolio.

2025 Data Highlights:

Housing Benefits and Allowances

- 75 clients were assisted through OPHI in 2025 vs. 92 in 2024.
- 33 new clients received COHB in 2025 vs. 1 in 2024. COHB allocation was not available until late 2024, and most clients receiving this are shown in 2025 numbers. This accounts for the limited amount in 2024.

- 2 households were assisted by the Home Ownership Program.

Centralized Waitlist

- The average number of applicants on the waitlist was 628 in 2025 vs. 667 in 2024.
- 64 individuals were housed off the waitlist in 2025 vs. 51 in 2024.
- Year-end totals for the Special Priority Program were 79 in 2025, vs 86 in 2024. This program gives priority access to social housing applicants who are experiencing domestic violence or human trafficking.

Homelessness & By-Name Data List (BND-List)

- On average, 71 individuals (monthly) were experiencing homelessness in 2025. This represents both individuals consenting to being on the BND-List, as well as shelter data. Of those 71, 41 consented to be on the BND-List. This compares to 35 in 2024.
 - Up to and including part of 2024, homelessness data was based on clients who provided consent to be on the BND-List. In 2025, this transitioned to Community Level data which includes those who provided consent, as well as shelter data. This provides Council with a more accurate understanding of community homelessness.
 - 150 individuals were housed off the BND-List in 2025, vs. 106 in 2024.
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Looking Forward to 2026: The County is making progress on 2025 initiatives and work began on additional initiatives to address housing and homelessness.

Master Housing Strategy

- 3 sites have been identified for development. The sites have been approved by Council.

Fiddleville Non-profit transfer to County Portfolio

- The Housing Division and Dufferin County will facilitate the transfer of Fiddleville Non-Profit Housing (Shelburne) into the County portfolio, ensuring a smooth transition that protects tenants and strengthens long term asset management. This will occur at end of mortgage (June 2026).

HART Hub

- Grand opening on January 23, at the Edelbrock Centre in Orangeville.
- Satellite site opening at the Mel Loyd Centre in Shelburne.
- A mobile clinic to open in the spring of 2026.

Health and Human Services Hub

- The hub is exploring expansion of its service providers. Led by the Hills of Headwaters Collaborative Ontario Health Team, the hub aims to enhance the community's well-being by providing integrated, equitable and accessible social, human and health care services for Dufferin residents.

YWHO Hub

- High-quality integrated youth services that support the well-being of young people aged 12 to 25, including mental health and substance use supports, primary health care, community and social supports, and more. Led by Dufferin Child and Family Services, a hub is proposed at the Edelbrock Centre, and renovations are to take place in 2026 for its opening.