

Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service System Planning Forum May 10, 2023

Date and time: May 10, 2023; 10:00am – 12:00pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89197109916>

1. SSHA Items and Updates

- **Shelter Flow Data** by Trish Lenz, Manager, Coordinated Access
- Shelter System Flow Data for the month of March 2023 can be accessed through the City's website: [Shelter System Flow Data – City of Toronto](#).
- There were **10,811** people who are actively homeless in the last three months, active homelessness refers to people who have used shelter services in the past three months, and have not moved to permanent housing.
- There were **801** newly identified people experiencing homelessness in our shelter system, and **523** people moved from shelter to permanent housing.
- The website also provides historical trends back to January 2018.
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*
 - **Q:** What is the chronic homelessness definition? Is the Shelter System Flow Data capturing chronic homelessness? What are the demographics of chronic homelessness?
 - **A:** The City of Toronto uses the federal definition of chronic homelessness: Chronic homelessness refers to people who meet one of the following criteria - the person has recorded a minimum of 180 overnight stays in the past year (365 days); or the person has recurrent overnight stays over the past 3 years with a cumulative duration of at least 546 nights.
 - Yes, the Shelter System Flow Data is capturing chronic homelessness. The total number of people experiencing chronic homelessness in Toronto for the month of March 2023 is **5,091**.
 - The demographics for people experiencing chronic homelessness is not included in the Shelter System Flow Data but this information can be provided in upcoming meetings.
 - **Q:** How will the loss of the [Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit \(COHB\)](#) program affect the Shelter System Flow Data? How is the City preparing for this benefit loss?
 - **A:** Both the GM of SSHA and the Executive Director of the Housing Secretariat have made their concerns to City Council. They are working to advocate for increased funding and to highlight the challenges coming from decreased allocations to COHB. Community organizations can also advocate to highlight challenges.
 - **Q:** Do we have data showing how many people who moved to permanent housing had access to COHB?
 - **A:** Yes, we have housing outcomes broken down by specific programs. The City can share this data with the meeting participants.

- **Outreach to support people at-risk of/experiencing homelessness in the transit system** by Ryan Holford, Street Outreach Program Officer, Streets to Homes
- [Streets to Homes \(S2H\)](#) and the [TTC](#) have been working together since 2005 but recently our level of involvement has increased due to an unprecedented need for services and supports for vulnerable people sheltering on Toronto's transit system.
- Over the course of the pandemic, S2H entered into a service agreement with the TTC to work alongside TTC constables, then in Feb 2023, we increased our staffing levels and provided a new service model where S2H became more proactive on the TTC without the need for TTC constables.
- Currently S2H has three teams in morning, afternoon and overnight shifts on the TTC, with a total of 573 TTC site visits in the month of April 2023.
- S2H has the ability to make referrals to the shelter system, with a total of 314 referrals from October 2022 to March 2023.
- We also have help from our outreach partners, [MDOT](#) and YMCA who provide more mental health and referral supports for TTC clients.
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*
 - **Q:** What are the numbers of young people served through this S2H and TTC outreach partnership?
 - **A:** The vast majority of people encountered are adults, not youth.
 - **Q:** Has the City provided dedicated shelter spaces specifically for this program (TTC referrals to shelter)?
 - **A:** S2H has a handful of shelter spaces reserved daily for outreach referrals including the TTC.
 - **Q:** What type of supports are assigned to the person experiencing homelessness on the TTC, and what priority are they given?
 - **A:** We are finding that the vast majority of people that we are encountering on the TTC do not have a prior relationship with S2H, with no assigned worker. S2H always takes a proactive approach. We work with the client to find appropriate supports such as connecting them with a housing worker, either through S2H or a shelter provider. There are some shelter programs that S2H housing workers are supporting on a continuous basis. If the person already has a housing worker, the housing worker will follow this person wherever they go, regardless of the shelter provider.
 - **Q:** What is the ratio of people experiencing homelessness on the TTC underground to aboveground?
 - **A:** We don't have this data but S2H's best practice is to get every client aboveground to help find supports and resources.

2. Toronto By-Election Recruitment Campaign

- **City of Toronto Election Services** by Hussain Haider Ali, Manager
- The City of Toronto's [By-Election for Mayor](#) is coming up on June 26, 2023 and it will be the largest in Canadian history.

- There are 15,000 election jobs required for the by-election. We are looking to fill these temporary positions through our [online recruitment strategy](#).
- Details of election positions, eligibility and pay are on the website.
- Training is mandatory for all election officials.
- People experiencing homelessness can vote. There will be a list of voting locations posted, at a shelter or location closest to the shelter where they are staying.
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*
 - **Q:** Is the City compensating people for the election training?
 - **A:** Yes, the lump sum pay amount does include training.

 - **Q:** Is it too late to add another shelter/voting location? Could we add a voting location in a hotel program or close to it, to help support the clients who will find it a challenge travel to another location?
 - **A:** Election Services has already determined the voting locations but will take this into consideration for next election.

3. Housing Secretariat Items and Updates

- **MURA Update** by Erik Hunter, Manager, Housing Development, Revitalization and Improvement, Housing Secretariat
- [The Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition \(MURA\)](#) program provides City grant funding and Initiatives to support the acquisition of private market rental housing by non-profit housing providers. These include Indigenous housing providers, co-operatives and community land trusts.
- To advance the City's commitments to truth, reconciliation and justice, 20% of MURA funding is dedicated to property acquisitions by Indigenous housing organizations.
- There is an open call for MURA funding with closing date of May 25, 2023.
- There is \$21.5 million in funding available, \$200,000 per dwelling unit for apartment buildings, and \$150,000 per dwelling unit for multi-tenant houses.
- Open call details are available on our website.
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*
 - **Q:** Can the CMHC Average Market Rent (AMR) for these units be achieved through the application of provincial rent supplements?
 - **A:** Yes, we welcome rent supplements from anyone.

 - **Q:** Does the MURA program fund new builds?
 - **A:** No, this is an acquisition program only.

 - **Q:** Is there any plan to connect the MURA program to housing support programs?
 - **A:** No, not at this point. The purpose of the MURA funding is to help non-profits buy at-risk private market rental housing and secure the homes as permanently-affordable non-profit housing.

- **Q:** Is the City doing any outreach or marketing to attract the attention of prospective private-market sellers?
- **A:** No, it is up to the non-profit to find private-market rental housing. Non-profits can conduct outreach on their own through sector forums etc.

4. TAEH Items and Updates

- **Mayoral By-Election** by Savhanna Wilson and Kira Heineck
- TAEH is asking for mayoral by-election candidates to sign TAEH Pledge to End Homelessness: <https://taeh.ca/end-homelessness-2023>
- There are two main asks for mayoral candidates:
 - 1) Develop a Toronto plan to end homelessness
 - 2) Provide a dedicated fund to address homelessness
- TAEH is developing a tool kit to help spread the word, to help get the support needed to prioritize homelessness.
- The official launch for this campaign is May 15. TAEH will be sending all of the mayoral by-election candidates our pledge and questionnaire.
- Will track results of the pledges, and post summaries of the results on website – including posting score cards to let people know where the candidates are in terms of their pledges.
- *Refer to slide deck presentation*
 - **Q:** Will TAEH host an all candidates' debate? Or is there a way to work with the United Way/Toronto Start through their debate?
 - **A:** It is a great idea to work with the United Way/Toronto Star, and we are also thinking about launching a social media event. We need endorsements and advocacy for this pledge. Please connect with Savhanna.
- **TAEH Update:** TAEH had a Mayor's Roundtable with former mayor John Tory, to develop a Toronto Plan to End Homelessness but after John Tory resigned, we followed up with the Deputy Mayor, Jennifer McKelvie.
 - Today at the Council meeting, MM6.10 motion asked Council to strike a Mayor's Roundtable, and for the City Manager to work with TAEH, the Toronto Shelter Network (TSN), and other community and city experts to operationalize it.

Next meeting: Wednesday June 14, 2023, 10:00 am -12:00 pm
Zoom Meeting