

TORONTO SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GROWTH PLAN



THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR MORE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN TORONTO

There are now more than 15,000 people on the Access Point wait list. We need a variety of housing-and-support models for people experiencing serious mental health issues, addictions, or chronic homelessness. Supportive housing is recognized as the long-term solution for many people on the streets and in shelters, and many people in hospitals or correctional institutions. Providers and governments have taken real steps in the past decade to create more supportive housing, but this activity is not sufficient to meet the needs.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Alongside the urgent need for more supportive housing, there are currently several opportunities to create a more comprehensive growth strategy arising from:

- ZERO TO, the Toronto Alliance To End Homelessness' (TAEH) campaign to end chronic homelessness in Toronto by 2025
- New resources from the National Housing Strategy and new federal homelessness program
- Provincial promises on mental health and housing-related supports

This project will bring together people and organizations across diverse sectors to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based, consensus-based plan to expand the supportive housing system in Toronto, and support its implementation.

- The City of Toronto's target of 18,000 more units and its upcoming ten-year housing plan

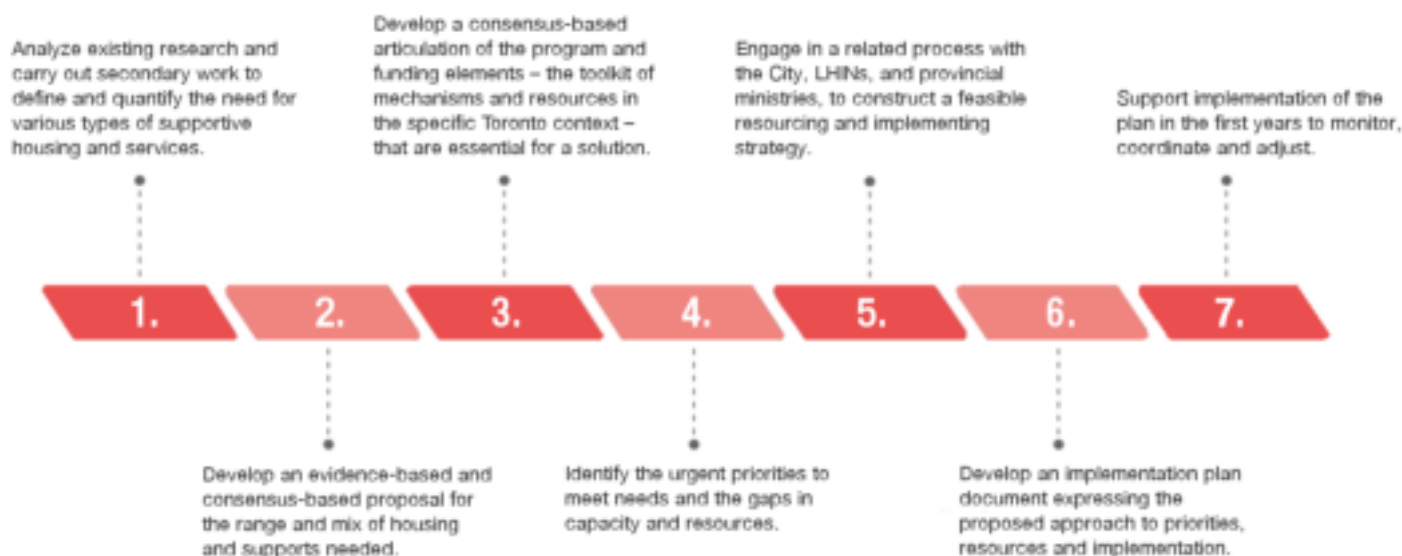
Supportive housing sits at a crossroads of housing and homelessness, of health-sector and municipal sector services, and of community and government leadership. Integrated approaches and a collaborative system response is needed. This project aims to bridge these elements in a unified plan, supported by key sectors and funders. It will proceed in dialogue with policy-makers, identify available and needed resources in concrete terms, and help move policy and funding decisions and action.

THE PLAN

The project will take a comprehensive view of Toronto's "supportive housing ecosystem," and identify ways to coordinate activity and resources across sectors, including planning, funding and the municipal approval process. The Supportive Housing Growth Plan will be developed with key stakeholders and experts to ensure it is pragmatic, evidence-based, and experience-informed. It will focus on both strategic (up to 10 year) approaches and short-term opportunities, and on implementation as well as planning.

The plan will propose the range and mix of housing and support required; identify the policy linkages and decisions essential to implementing the plan; identify the capital and operating funding requirements and the sources these could come from; and propose an implementation approach that takes into account the need for a robust municipal approval process. The planning phase of work is expected to take place in 2019. Other components of work will focus on short-term opportunities while work is underway, and on monitoring implementation over at least 3 years.

PROCESS



THE PARTNERS

This project is co-sponsored by the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness (TAEH), the Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch (CMHA), and the Wellesley Institute.

Key roles will be as follows:

- The three co-sponsors will lead the project, manage project staff, and administer associated planning resources.
- A planning table/TAEH working group will act as a hands-on project committee and forum for consensus-building. It will include providers, The Access Point, people with lived experience, senior staff from the City, LHINs, and hospitals, as well as others.
- The Thrive Toronto table has a cross-sectoral system leadership role and will provide strategic advice in a dialogue with the working group. It will act as a liaison to funders, decision-makers, and influencers, and facilitate the necessary policy and system decisions.