



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## Committee Report

**To:** Chair and Members of the Joint Social Services and Land Ambulance Committee  
**From:** Mark Poste, Director of Housing Services  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2024 **HS-24-06**  
**Subject:** **Reaching Home: One-Time Winter 2023-24 Unsheltered Homelessness Summary Report**

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### Background:

This report provides a data and financial summary on the Reaching Home: One-Time Winter 2023-24 Unsheltered Homelessness Response funding as an update to report [HS-24-02](#) submitted to Committee in March 2024.

As noted in the March report, Infrastructure Canada, which administers the Reaching Home initiative nationally, informed the County on December 22, 2023, of an additional \$633,318 as a top-up to their Reaching Home allocation for 2023-2024. This funding, referred to as the Winter 2023-24 Unsheltered Homelessness Response Funding, aimed to help people access a safer and more stable place to stay during the winter of 2023-24 in response to increased demand for services and supports. This one-time allocation was to be fully expended by April 30, 2024.

The County, as the Wellington-Guelph Community Entity for Reaching Home funding, worked with Infrastructure Canada in January 2024 to create an investment plan and a signed contribution agreement for these funds. Housing Services, then worked with the following community agency partners to deliver this funding allocation:

- Community Resource Centre of North and Centre Wellington
- East Wellington Community Services
- Guelph Community Health Centre
- Guelph-Wellington Paramedic Service
- Mount Forest Family Health Team
- Royal City Mission
- Sanguen Health Centre
- Southern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
- Stepping Stone
- Stonehenge Therapeutic Communities
- Wyndham House

### Update:

As of April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Reaching Home Winter 2023-24 Unsheltered Homelessness Response programme came to an end. As intended, this federal funding provided an opportunity for many of our most vulnerable community members to shelter indoors during the winter months, getting connected with supports and for others to secure or retain permanent housing placements.

The limitations of these funds were shared with individuals supported in the temporary accommodations on the first day of the programme. Individuals who were not permanently housed through this funding left for alternative arrangements on April 30<sup>th</sup> with the support of our numerous community partners. Alternate arrangements at the end of the programme looked different for each individual; some were supported through the Safe Beds programme at Stonehenge Therapeutic, some were supported with temporary accommodations through the Canadian Mental Health Association’s Service Resolution programme, some entered the emergency shelter system at 23 Gordon or at the Silvercreek Temporary Accommodation Site. Others returned to living in housing precarity, staying with friends or relatives and some returned to an unsheltered living situation.

**Key Indicators and Financial Summary:**

The table below provides a list of the supports provided through Housing Services staff and community agencies during the winter months of 2024. The table includes the number of individuals or households supported, as well as the expenses incurred for the delivery of those services.

<b>Supports Provided</b>	<b>Unique Individuals or Households Supported</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
Temporary Accommodations	35	\$ 201,238
Silvercreek Temporary Accommodation Site	109	\$ 261,420
Supports and Connections at Unsheltered Locations	40	\$ 5,823
Transportation to Stable Shelter Options	18	\$ 7,118
Permanent Housing Solutions Secured	53	\$ 105,581
Rent Supplements (time limited)	9	\$ 5,025
Homelessness Prevention (utility and rent arrears)	31	\$ 37,359
Tangibles	26	\$ 9,754
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 633,318</b>

**Financial Implications:**

This was 100% federal funding and expenditures completely offset funding resulting in no municipal tax levy impact. All funding through this programme was expensed and accounted for within the programme deadlines and no unspent Reaching Home funding was returned to Infrastructure Canada.

**Recommendation:**

That the Joint Social Services Land Ambulance Committee recommend to County Council that the report, Reaching Home: One-Time Winter 2023-2024 Unsheltered Homelessness Response Funding Summary Report, be received for information.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Poste  
 Director of Housing Services