



# Comprehensive Housing Strategy 2014-2024 – **Five-year Review**





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# Message from Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr



As the local steward of our housing system, Halton Region is responsible for ensuring the creation and protection of government assisted housing in Halton. The Region has completed a five-year review of our Comprehensive Housing Strategy (CHS) 2014-2024 to ensure the communities we are building continue to meet the housing needs of Halton residents.

Under the provincial *Housing Services Act*, the Region is required to review its housing plan every five years. This requirement gives us an opportunity to evaluate our progress and adapt our actions to the changing housing environment.

Access to safe and stable housing is a basic human right that impacts all aspects of an individual's life. Where you live and the supports available to you can influence your health, happiness, your employment and your sense of belonging in a community.

Halton Region is a growing community with a population that has been mandated to grow to approximately one million by 2041 under the provincial *Places to Grow Act*. To accommodate this growth, it is imperative that Halton continues to provide a diverse mix of housing that is affordable to all income levels.

Our CHS 2014-2024 plan is supported by a multi-year financial plan that includes a \$107 million of Regional investment in our social infrastructure. The Region has made tremendous progress in preserving the existing housing stock in Halton, while creating new housing opportunities. In the first five years of the plan, we have maintained our housing supply while creating 764 new housing units and rent-assisted opportunities for low income residents. Since 2008, we have created 1,701 government-assisted housing opportunities. We have also been successful at diversifying the housing mix and stimulating affordability through our growth management policy, which requires that at least 50 per cent of new housing is higher-density.

As we continue investing in our residents' housing needs, we welcome and encourage investments from our federal and provincial government partners. While Halton Region invests significantly in housing, we cannot do it alone. Halton would benefit from long-term, permanent and sustainable investments that will allow for the planning and delivery of and access to safe, affordable, accessible housing. Housing is a shared responsibility across all levels of government, as well as the private and non-profit sector. Strong partnerships are critical in addressing the housing and growth challenges our community faces.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our housing consultations for their contributions to our five-year review of the CHS. Together we are working to ensure that Halton remains a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

Sincerely,

Gary Carr  
Halton Regional Chair



# Introduction

The Comprehensive Housing Strategy (CHS) 2014-2024 – Five-year Review highlights key achievements in Halton Region’s official housing and homelessness plan (the CHS 2014-2024). It provides an overview of the changing housing environment and also provides discussion and updates to the Region’s strategic actions for the upcoming five years. Over the last five years, there have been regulatory and environmental changes, as well as significant progress on the Strategy’s actions and objectives. This review, which is required under the *Housing Services Act*, shows how Halton Region is adapting its actions to respond to a changing housing environment.

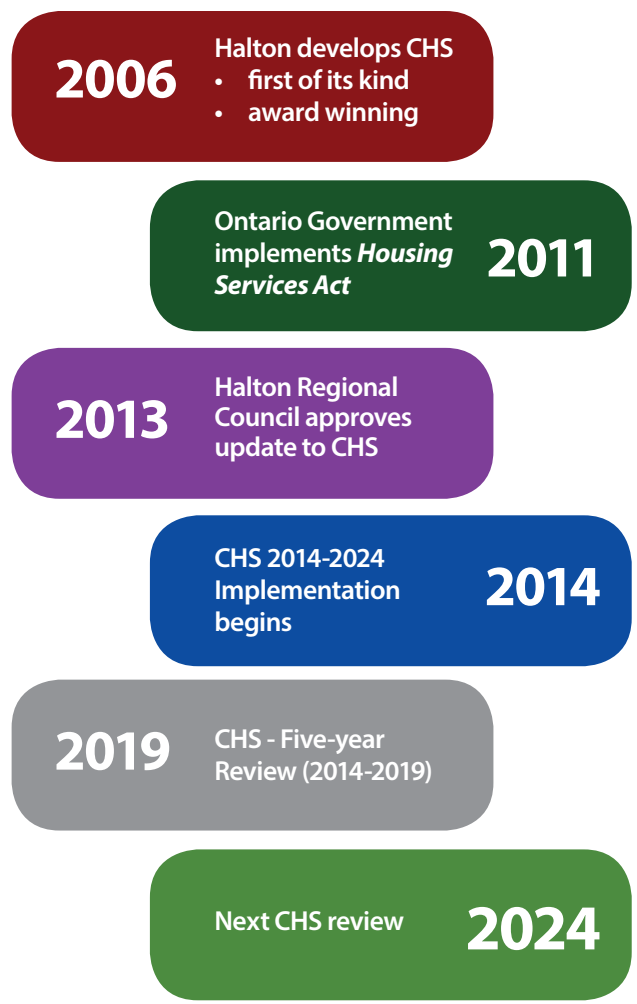


# Background

In 2006, Halton Region developed its award-winning Comprehensive Housing Strategy (CHS). It served as Halton Region’s 10-year strategic road map to address local housing needs with innovative made-in-Halton approaches. The Strategy was visionary and transformational, establishing the Region as a leader in housing by not only introducing the concept of a housing continuum, but also identifying the Region’s stewardship in housing.

In 2011 the provincial government implemented a new *Housing Services Act*. This legislation included a requirement that all Municipal Service Managers responsible for housing develop and implement a 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Halton Region’s CHS was updated to meet this legislative requirement. The CHS 2014-2024 received extensive public consultation and was approved by Halton Regional Council in 2013. The directions in the plan were developed with the goals of:

- Creating a range and mix of new housing to meet the needs of our Halton community;
- Protecting existing rental housing so that it continues to be available to Halton residents; and
- Providing coordinated services to residents who need support to obtain or maintain their housing.



# Foundation review

The CHS 2014-2024 includes five strategic directions that respond to the diverse housing needs of all Halton residents:



## 1. Promote complete and healthy communities

Work with the local municipalities, the development community and the non-profit sector to ensure the communities we are building meet the physical, social and economic needs of current and future Halton residents.

## 2. Encourage and protect affordable housing

Use municipal and regional policy tools to encourage the private sector to provide unsubsidized rental and ownership housing options.

## 3. Encourage and protect community housing

Create, directly or through partnerships, new supply and protect the existing government assisted housing stock.

## 4. Support independent living

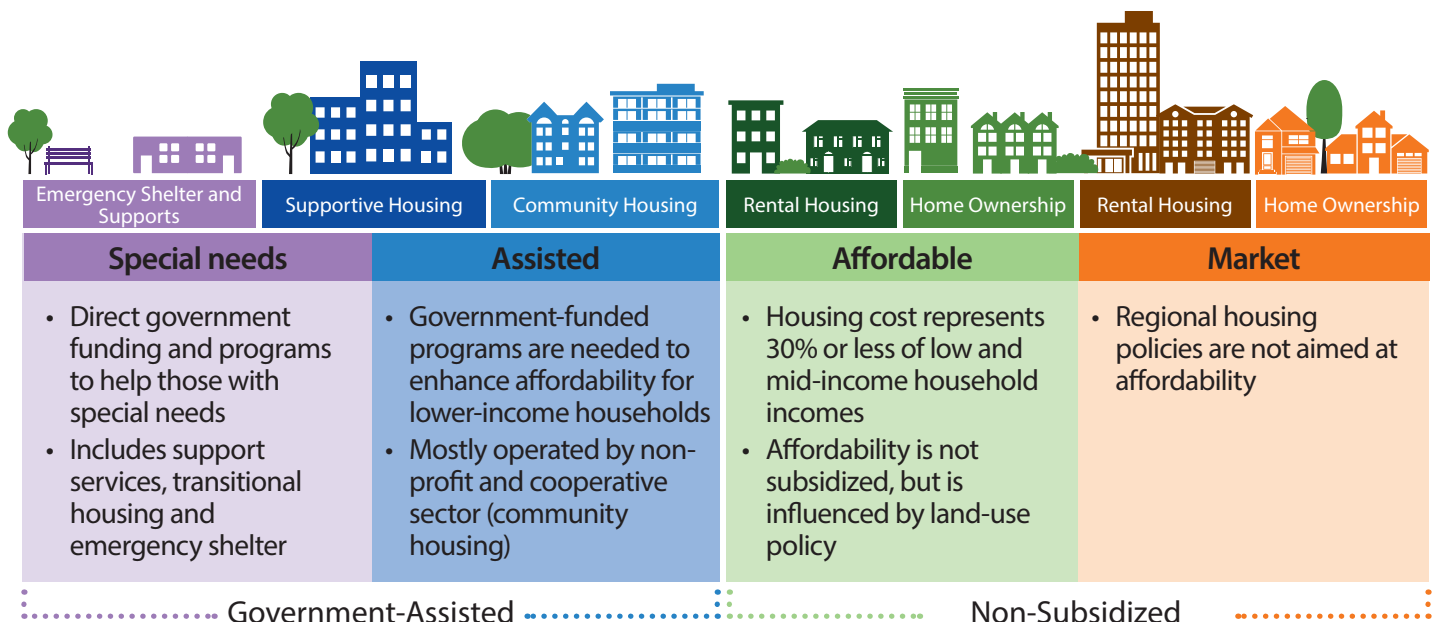
Work with homeowners, building owners, and agencies to increase the ability of Halton residents with disabilities or special needs to live independently.

## 5. Assist Halton residents to maintain their housing and prevent homelessness

Provide programs and coordination with other agencies to help at-risk residents maintain their housing, and prevent homelessness.

Embedded in these strategic directions for the upcoming five years are 34 actions. Some are continued from the first five years of the plan while others are new.

The concept of the housing continuum continues to be foundational to our approach. We recognize that family and individual housing needs change as their circumstances shift and evolve over time. This concept highlights that the role of Halton Region is different across the housing continuum, from direct funding (on the left) to policy and planning tool uses (on the right).



# Foundation Review (continued)

The CHS 2014-2024 articulated the Region’s role as a local policy steward for the housing continuum, consistent with the *Housing Services Act*. Housing is a shared responsibility across all levels of government, as well as the private and non-profit sectors. All stakeholders have an important role to play.

## Key achievements

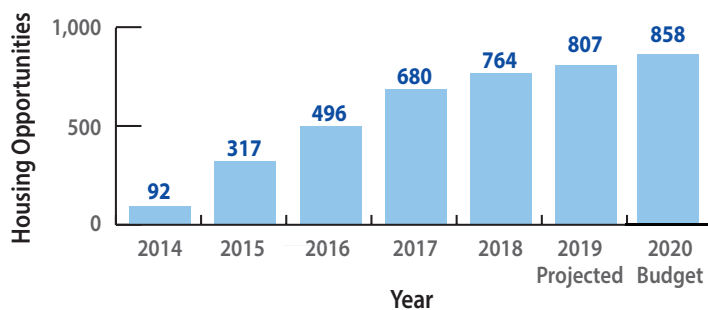
The CHS 2014-2024 was supported by a multi-year financing plan which included \$107 million in Regional funding. Halton Region has made significant progress since 2014 and substantial investments in housing and homelessness prevention. It is also ahead of schedule in its target to create 550 to 900 new housing opportunities by 2024.

Some of our key achievements over the first five-year period of the CHS 2014-2024 include:

### New housing opportunities

- 764 new housing units and rent assisted opportunities have been created since 2014
- There has been improved support for more affordable housing through use of funding and planning tools such as:
  - Development Charges Deferral
  - Supporting local Community Improvement Plans
  - Section 37 partnership with local municipalities
  - Pilot program to stimulate secondary suites

New housing opportunities



764 new assisted housing opportunities created since 2014

74 units acquired in condo buildings for use as assisted housing

Provided funding to three non-profit housing providers to create 69 assisted housing units

Protected a 28-unit rental property for older adults through Regional acquisition

## CHS 2014-2024 key achievements (continued):

63%

New housing production being apartment or townhouse since 2014 (annual target is 50%)

33%

5-year total of new housing sales were affordable (annual target is 30%)

290

Halton residents are receiving a HIP supplement.



Assisted more than 2,000 individuals and families through Halton Housing Help

- The Regional growth management policies have been successful at diversifying the housing mix and stimulating affordability with its direction that at least 50 per cent of new housing be higher-density. Since 2014, the proportion of high density housing has been 63 per cent.
- About 33 per cent of new housing – mostly high density – sold during this period was below the Region's affordability threshold.

### Financial assistance

- Developed and implemented the Halton In-Situ Program (HIP), the first portable housing benefit program of its kind in Ontario to assist Halton residents with their monthly rents where they currently reside. As of mid 2019, there were 290 Halton residents in receipt of a HIP supplement.
- Preserved existing government assisted housing stock by investing nearly \$6M million in capital upgrades to improve operating efficiency and extend the life of the existing housing facilities.
- Made financial assistance available to assist Halton homeowners make accessibility modifications to their homes, allowing them to remain at home, living independently.

### Client service improvements

- Enumerated homelessness for the first time in 2016 and conducted a second enumeration in 2018.
- Used homelessness data to create the Halton Housing First program which:
  - Provides permanent housing for the most vulnerable;
  - Provides two years of intensive supportive services for those most at risk of chronic homelessness; and
  - Assisted 78 people since implementation of this initiative in 2015 and this number continues to grow.
- Improved customer services and ease of access for Halton residents using Regional housing and other social services programs and services.

# A Changing Environment

While significant progress has been made to meet the housing needs of Halton residents, Halton Region recognizes that more needs to be done to ensure that the housing needs are met as our region grows.

The five-year review has included work to analyze and evaluate changes to the housing environment including:

- A technical review and analysis of Halton’s demographics and housing data;
- A review of provincial policy and program changes;
- Incorporating new strategies and multi-year funding commitments from the senior levels of government; and
- Engaging key stakeholders in the housing and homelessness sector with our observations to gain further insight into local needs and proposed solutions.

The strategic directions have been updated to reflect this work.

## Housing supply and demand

Halton’s population is growing. Between 2011 and 2016 the number of households grew by 7.8 per cent – one of the highest increases in Canada. It is anticipated that 5,500 new households may settle in Halton annually in the next 5 years.





## A Changing Environment (continued)

**+7.8%**

Growth in number of households between 2011 and 2016

**39.2%**

Housing sales price increase between 2014 and 2018

**16.7%**

Household income increase between 2011 and 2016



Housing has become less affordable in both the ownership and rental markets. The cost of housing has outpaced household income. It has now become more challenging for people to find housing that is affordable. The average price of house sales in 2018 was 39 per cent higher than in 2014, while household incomes between 2011 and 2016 increased by 16.7 per cent on average.

Core Housing needs are on the rise. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of households living in overcrowded settings and/or paying more than 50 per cent of household income on housing increased.

Halton will continue to monitor how growth evolves and impacts the demand for affordable housing and how this informs the approach toward an adequate range and mix of housing and services in the years to come.

### Homelessness and supportive housing

In 2016, Halton Region held its first homelessness point in time count, with a second enumeration held in 2018. The counts found that family and unsheltered homelessness in the Region has decreased relative to population growth since 2016. Enumerating homelessness has enabled the creation of innovative made-in-Halton programs and services to address those most in need in our community such as the Halton Housing First program and modernization of our emergency shelter capabilities.

The broad homelessness system has received increased supports and improvements through partnerships with local service agencies. Planned improvements will place the Region in a strong position to increase supportive housing interventions, and make progress toward the federal target of a 50 per cent reduction in chronic homelessness over the next 10 years.

**271**

Total individuals/  
head of household  
experiencing  
homelessness  
identified

#### Staying in:

**102**

(38%)

Transitional  
housing



**72**

(27%)

Shelter



**44**

(16%)

Couch  
Surfing



**18**

(7%)

Motel



**15**

(6%)

Hospital/  
Corrections



**14**

(5%)

Public or  
Undisclosed  
locations



**6**

(1%)

Not  
disclosed



## A Changing Environment (continued)

The Region will be responding to observed needs by implementing a coordinated access system by end of 2020 to help homeless individuals and families get the help they need at the right place and the right time. However, the current trend of increasing numbers of chronically homeless with multiple barriers may mean additional emphasis should be placed on bringing higher level supports into our residential communities.

Unchanged from the CHS 2014-2024 is Halton Region's requirement of managing a community housing waitlist. The Halton Access to Community Housing (HATCH) waitlist has had year-over-year incremental progress in addressing our waitlist demand. It has declined to 3,241 in 2018 down from 3,425 from a year earlier. Both service providers and the Province of Ontario have come to recognize that the waitlist is not a robust measure of actual housing needs. The Province is expected to be rolling out changes on how waitlists are managed, beginning in 2020.

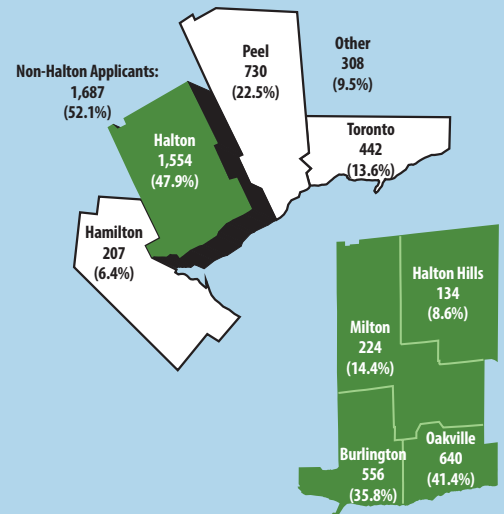
### New Housing Policy Statement

In 2016, the Province renewed the Housing Policy Statement that exists under the *Housing Services Act*. The CHS is expected to be consistent with the Housing Policy Statement. Key changes are:




- Homelessness strategies and actions are now required to be informed through local homelessness enumeration with more focus on the chronically homeless, youth and Indigenous peoples.
- There is direction for greater collaboration with the health sector, and Indigenous housing and service providers.
- Greater capacity building with the non-profit and co-operative housing sectors towards the provincial goal of achieving financial self-sufficiency.
- Expanded direction for the private sector to provide a mix and range of housing, including affordable rental and ownership housing.
- Direction to improve climate resilience in the affordable housing stock.

Various actions have been refined or created to ensure the CHS continues to align with the Housing Policy Statement.

### Active HATCH applicants by municipality



### Of the Halton Applicants:

Chronological applicants	Special Priority (SPP) applicants	Local Priority applicants
1,376 (88.5%)	46 (3.0%)	132 (8.5%)
		



# A Changing Environment (continued)

## New commitments from senior levels of government

The federal and provincial governments have launched initiatives that could impact our housing activities over the next five years. These initiatives include multi-year financial investments for housing as well as policy initiatives that will allow Halton Region to be more strategic and longitudinal in our approach. The Region has long advocated for permanent, ongoing, sustainable funding from senior levels of government with local flexibility on its use.

### Federal

In 2017 the federal government released Canada's first National Housing Strategy. The major themes of the strategy are:

- Funding and financing new affordable and assisted housing across the country;
- Retaining existing community housing;
- Building capacity in the community housing sector; and
- Investing in housing innovation.

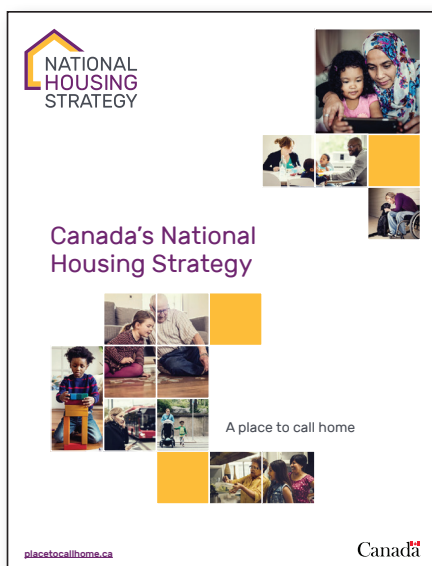
The strategy is supported with financial commitments, in a suite of programs, totalling \$40 billion over 10 years. The

National Housing Co-investment Fund stands out for its impact on the Region. It is competitive in nature and relies on municipal and regional partnerships for “co-investment” in the projects. The Region plays a critical role in supporting and confirming proposals by providing funding and non-financial incentives, to achieve Regional objectives identified in Directions 2 and 3.

### Provincial

The Province of Ontario announced a nine-year commitment for affordable housing with the release of its Community Housing Renewal Strategy in April 2019. The strategy reinforces the federal government's direction to grow, stabilize and modernize the community housing sector and includes two new cost-shared funding programs: the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI). These programs, as well as the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit, complement existing directions in the CHS and will become part of the CHS funding and financing plans.

It is noted, however, that the initial funding allocation for the first 3 years of these two new programs is significantly lower than funding received under previous federal/provincial programs. This may impact Halton's capacity to address housing need in the years to come.



### Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder input and feedback informed our five-year review. The Region sought input at events held in October 2018 and January 2019 with social housing providers, the development industry and a broad range of stakeholders across the region.

The focus of the consultations was:

- to validate technical analysis and recommendations prepared by staff; and
- to identify any gaps with potential solutions.

Our strategic directions for the next five years incorporate the results of these engagement sessions. Stakeholders will be engaged on an ongoing basis with implementation of CHS actions in the years ahead.



The review of the CHS 2014-2024 has confirmed that the Five Strategic Directions in the CHS 2014-2024 remain valid. They also serve as a good foundation for the next five-year period of the plan. The basic structure of the strategy remains, with some refinements, to ensure it continues to be relevant over the next five-year horizon and compliant with regulatory changes.

Revised objectives, actions and measures have been formulated to ensure that the housing needs of Halton residents will be met.

Provincial legislation has solidified the Region's role as the steward of the local housing system. The updated actions recognize this growing role, while reflecting the breadth of this responsibility. The Region will continue to use local flexibility to develop made-in-Halton initiatives that address housing needs in our region in an efficient and effective manner.





## Direction 1 – Promote complete and healthy communities

### Objectives:

Build complete and healthy communities that provide a full range of housing and services to meet the physical, social and economic needs of all Halton residents. Through its Official Plan, Halton Region is committed to developing complete communities that meet people’s needs for daily living throughout their lifetime.

Within this context, this direction is focused on providing an appropriate mix, density and tenure of housing and co-ordination of community infrastructure and human services, as part of a complete and healthy community.

The Region will continue work with the local municipalities, the building and development industry, non-profit sectors and other levels of government to ensure that all residents have access to safe, affordable and adequate housing.

This includes making more efficient use of existing developed lands, housing stock, available services, and new housing developments to meet the housing needs of Halton residents.



### 1.1 Outcome: Adequate mix and variety of housing to meet the needs of all residents

Action	Measures
Through policy and initiatives, provide a full range of housing that meets the needs of residents throughout all stages of their lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and type of housing developed in intensification and greenfield areas annually</li> <li>• Total number of housing unit completions annually</li> <li>• New housing units produced annually in Halton in the form of townhouses or multi-storey buildings</li> </ul>

### 1.2 Outcome: Housing and human service needs of Halton residents met

Action	Measure
Work with local municipalities to develop, implement, and promote land use policies and initiatives to meet the changing housing and human service needs of residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies and initiatives identified for consideration as part of the statutory five-year review of the Regional Official Plan</li> </ul>



## Direction 2 – Encourage and protect affordable housing

### Objectives:

Implement a policy framework to encourage and protect affordable housing in the private sector across the Region, providing for a range of housing price points and a variety of tenure, unit size and built-form.

“Affordable housing” is housing with a market price or rent that is affordable to households of low and moderate income, spending 30 per cent of their gross household income without government subsidies. For greater clarity, housing where part of the cost is subsidized through a government program is referred to as government-assisted or community housing. Actions in that category are found in Directions 3, 4 and 5.

With supporting Official Plan policies and targets, this direction also focuses on closely monitoring the housing trends and achievement of targets, and using policy intervention and initiatives to create more affordable housing.



### 2.1 Outcome: Revised policies and tools to respond to changes in housing trends

Action	Measure
Monitor market trends, housing cost and income thresholds, supply-demand shortfalls, and target achievements through the annual State of Housing Report, thus informing the policy framework on an ongoing basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of the annual State of Housing Report</li> </ul>

### 2.2 Outcome: Increased range and mix of affordable housing

Actions	Measures
2.2a Ensure the Regional policy framework provides a range of affordable medium and high density housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Affordability and housing mix target status as reported annually in the State of Housing Report</li> </ul>
2.2b Encourage local municipalities to prepare Community Improvement Plans that support increased supply of assisted, affordable or special needs housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of assisted, affordable or special needs housing units created within Community Improvement Plan areas</li> </ul>

### 2.3 Outcome: Retention of existing rental housing

Action	Measures
Work with local municipalities to create policies and programs to retain existing rental housing (new as of 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of primary market rental units in Halton Region</li> <li>Rental Vacancy Rate</li> </ul>



## Direction 3 – Encourage and protect community housing

### Objectives:

Support a sustainable housing program by creating new supply and protecting existing community housing stock.

Community housing plays an important role in helping Halton’s low and moderate income individuals and families obtain housing that is safe, stable and secure.

The Region will continue to meet the needs of Halton residents by continuing to create new housing opportunities, protecting Halton’s existing stock of community housing and making continuous improvement in the way Halton residents access housing and related supports.

The Region will work with the non-profit and private sectors, where appropriate, to continue to meet the needs of Halton residents.



### 3.1 Outcome: Increased community housing opportunities for Halton residents

Actions	Measures
3.1a Continue to advocate for system improvements and stable long-term funding from senior levels of government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in sector advocacy efforts</li> </ul>
3.1b Participate in current and future federal/provincial housing programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal and provincial funding invested annually</li> <li>Regional funding invested to support federal and provincial investments</li> </ul>
3.1c Continue to create new housing opportunities for vulnerable Halton residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of additional housing opportunities created in year</li> </ul>
3.1d Modernize and expand existing programs that support qualified Halton residents with their rent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of rent supplements annually</li> <li>Total number of portable housing allowances provided annually</li> <li>Number of households assisted per year</li> </ul>



## Direction 3 – Encourage and protect community housing

### 3.2 Outcome: Halton’s existing community housing remains available and is well maintained

Actions	Measures
3.2a Develop and start implementing a strategy to keep non-profit and cooperative housing units in Halton Region’s community housing system for the long term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of providers with multi-year financing plans</li> <li>• Percentage of units retained as community housing when the operating agreement or mortgage expires</li> </ul>
3.2b Implement a comprehensive community housing review process to ensure the current housing stock is well managed and suitable for the needs of Halton residents.  Include assessments of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial stability</li> <li>• Scale</li> <li>• Building condition</li> <li>• Energy efficiency</li> <li>• How it addresses housing need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of housing projects reviewed</li> </ul>

### 3.3 Outcome: Halton’s assisted housing stock is improved

Actions	Measures
3.3a Investigate Regional opportunities to redevelop, revitalize and intensify existing non-housing assets, utilize surplus publically owned land, and other opportunities (new as of 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of a multi-year project plan that identifies and prepares suitable sites for potential (re)development based on available funding</li> </ul>
3.3b Develop a multi-year strategy to intensify/ redevelop Halton Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) properties, with funding plans and a timeline for implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of the strategy</li> </ul>
3.3c In collaboration with the community housing sector, support efforts to modernize the sector by facilitating adoption of entrepreneurial approaches to realize self-sufficiency and optimal scale that balances fiscal capabilities with social purpose (new as of 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish reports on evaluation of the sector</li> <li>• Annual sector forums scheduled and tool kits produced to build capacity in the community housing sector</li> </ul>





## Direction 3 – Encourage and protect community housing

### 3.4 Outcome: Halton residents have improved access to housing options and supports

Actions	Measures
3.4a Improve resident access to housing programs as part of continued human service integration objectives employing multi channels and information technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results of user surveys</li> <li>• Number of referrals from 311, online applications and other service providers</li> </ul>
3.4b Continue to improve the Halton Access to Community Housing (HATCH) waitlist process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer service measures</li> <li>• Ease of access measures</li> <li>• Percentage of abandoned applications</li> <li>• Percentage of placements</li> <li>• Percentage of placements in preferred location</li> <li>• Number of units declined annually</li> </ul>

### 3.5 Outcome: Increased community housing through regional partnerships with the private and non-profit sectors

Actions	Measures
3.5a Facilitate collaboration and partnerships between community housing groups and the private sector to create new assisted housing opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of forums bringing non-profit and profit sectors together to network annually</li> </ul>
3.5b Develop and promote a procurement strategy that encourages private sector involvement in the development of new community housing units (new as of 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of community housing units created</li> <li>• Number of total (community and market) units created through the procurement strategy</li> </ul>



## Direction 4 – Support independent living

### Objectives:

Continue to increase the availability of housing with supports to accommodate the needs of Halton residents.

Many Halton residents require some form of support or modification to their housing to live independently. Halton Region will require that community housing created or rehabilitated include accessibility features when Regional funding is used.

We will also continue to work with community agencies to ensure that support services are easier to access and more effectively coordinated with housing. This direction is focused on providing more specialized housing opportunities and improving access to available support services and programs.



### 4.1 Outcome: Increased accessible housing opportunities for Halton residents

Action	Measure
Consult the Halton Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee when Regionally-owned assisted housing is constructed or renovated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage and amount of accessible units in Halton-owned buildings</li> </ul>

### 4.2 Outcome: Increased housing with supports for Halton residents

Actions	Measures
4.2a Collaborate with provincial ministries and support service providers to increase supportive housing opportunities across Halton Region's community housing sector, including HCHC (new as of 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage and amount of supportive units created</li> <li>Total number of supported units in Halton</li> </ul>
4.2b Follow Regional Assisted Housing Design Guidelines (including accessibility and green building policies) when (re)developing housing that is Regionally owned and operated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage and amount of accessible units produced that meet the guidelines</li> </ul>



## Direction 4 – Support independent living

### 4.3 Outcome: Improved access to available support services and programs

Actions	Measures
4.3a Continue to incrementally improve access to support programs and services, providing a coordinated approach to housing programs and services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Amount of referrals broken down by source</li></ul>
4.3b Improve capacity to support independent living through co-location and partnerships with health and community service providers (new as of 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Percentage, amount, and types of units</li></ul>
4.3c Explore opportunities to address a broader set of client needs with program innovations and new partnerships (new as of 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of new partnerships and/or pilot projects developed</li></ul>
4.3d Collaborate and partner with appropriate provincial and regional agencies to help residents with complex needs get and retain housing in appropriate environments (new as of 2019).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of beds for people with complex needs in community housing facilities</li></ul>
4.3e Ensure housing providers continue to meet Special Priority Policy (SPP) requirements and work to better co-ordinate support services to SPP clients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of SPP clients placed in appropriate housing units</li><li>• Number of SPP clients receiving portable housing benefit annually</li></ul>
4.3f Work with local Indigenous organizations to develop and deliver culturally appropriate training as well as improved awareness of Indigenous housing issues in the region with a focus on Indigenous homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of training sessions delivered</li></ul>



## Direction 5 – Assist Halton residents to maintain their housing and prevent homelessness

### Objectives:

Continue to assist Halton residents to maintain their housing and prevent homelessness.

Having secure and safe housing is the first step in enabling Halton residents to improve their overall circumstances and remain in our community. Keeping people housed is our priority. We will continue to use proactive made-in-Halton approaches to assist individuals and families to retain their housing.

Halton Region will continue to work in partnership with community agencies to help residents at risk of homelessness or eviction, gain or retain housing by ensuring that support services are made available to them.

While we work to keep people housed, we also recognize there will be some Halton residents that may need emergency shelter. We will continue to provide and enhance Halton’s emergency shelter program to meet their needs.



### 5.1 Outcome: Halton residents avoid eviction and maintain their housing

Actions	Measures
5.1a Continue to advocate for and participate in any future federal and provincial homelessness programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total homeless population enumerated bi-annually</li> </ul>
5.1b Modernize policies and programs to effectively assist Halton residents to retain and regain housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Success rate at retaining housing after accessing a program at six months</li> </ul>
5.1c Expand Halton Housing Help to meet growth related demands and assist more Halton residents with their housing and support needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of households helped</li> </ul>

### 5.2 Outcome: Enhance supportive housing capacity for chronically homeless residents

Actions	Measures
5.2a Increase capacity of Halton's Housing First Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Success rate at retaining housing after six months and two years</li> <li>Number of people/households served per year</li> </ul>
5.2b Implement a centralized coordinated access approach to homelessness prevention and supportive housing agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total homeless population enumerated bi-annually</li> </ul>
5.2c Work with relevant provincial ministries to more effectively address institutional discharge into the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in sector advocacy efforts</li> </ul>

# Summary

This review of the CHS 2014-2024 fulfills the requirement from the *Housing Services Act* to review the 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan every five years.

It provides an overview of the changing housing environment and also provides discussion and updates to the Region's strategic actions for the upcoming five years.

The CHS 2014-2024 continues to be an action focused and measurable plan that will:

- Create a range and mix of new housing to meet the needs of our Halton community;
- Protect existing rental housing so that it continues to be available to Halton residents; and
- Provide coordinated services to residents who need support to obtain or maintain their housing.

Progress on improving Halton's housing system will be seen through the 34 actions in the five strategic directions in this plan:

1. Promote complete and healthy communities
2. Encourage and protect affordable housing
3. Encourage and protect community housing
4. Support independent living
5. Continue to assist Halton residents to maintain their housing and prevent homelessness

When the CHS undergoes another five-year review in 2024, Halton Region will have completed the Municipal Comprehensive Review, including updates to the Regional Official Plan. New population growth targets, updated land use tools and policies, plus the progress achieved against the strategic directions of this plan will present another opportunity to update and refresh Halton's housing strategy and action plan to continue to meet the housing needs of Halton residents.





SCS-1912734

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