



**District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administrative Board's  
 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Update**

The following report was made public on the DSSMSSAB's website.

**Affordable Housing and Homelessness Plan**

- 2016 has seen a major accomplishment for Housing Services with the continuation of funding remaining focused on the five strategic directions outlined in the plan and continuing into 2017:
  1. Expand access to affordable housing.
  2. Foster the development of an integrated system of housing and homelessness services.
  3. Enhance support services for homelessness individuals and families.
  4. Develop solutions to prevent homelessness.
  5. Engage in on going planning.

**2016 - Year in Review**

Strategic Direction	Action	Timeline	Responsibility	Measures Taken
Strategic Direction V: Build Capacity for Data Use and Planning	<b>All agencies that receive DSSMSSAB funding for homelessness services begin collecting and reporting their data, consistent with the metrics and framework set out by DSSMSSAB</b>	Q2, 2016	Service Providers	On-Going
Strategic Direction V: : Build Capacity for Data Use and Planning	<b>Assemble and release first annual report</b>	Q1, 2016	DSSMSSAB	In process

Strategic Direction II: Foster the Development of an Integrated System of Homelessness Services	<b>Review the first 6 months of coordinated intake, including impacts and challenges, to identify opportunities for improvement</b>	Q1, 2016	DSSMSSAB, Planning Group, shelter providers	Completed and On-going monitoring for process improvements
Strategic Direction IV: Re- focus Solutions to Prevent Homelessness	<b>Refine eligibility criteria</b>	Q1, 2016	DSSMSSAB	Urgent Homeless Category created
Strategic Direction IV: Re- focus Solutions to Prevent Homelessness	<b>Consolidate CHPI funding for homelessness prevention</b>	Q1, 2016	DSSMSSAB	Completed
Strategic Direction III: Enhance Housing Support Services for individuals and Families	<b>Develop a plan to pilot a Housing Fris Intervention for up to 20 chronic shelter users, beginning in Q1 of 2017, including identification of a funding source for a case manager and housing assistance</b>	Q1-Q4 2016	Planning Group DSSMSSAB	Began housing first intervention Jan 2015. To date, have housed 43 clients and 41 remain housed
Strategic Direction III: Enhance Housing Support Services for individuals and Families	<b>Develop a plan to pilot a Rapid Re-Housing Intervention for up to 30 mid-acuity households, beginning in Q1 of 2017, including identification of a funding source for a case manager and housing assistance</b>	Q1-Q4, 2016	DSSMSSAB, Planning Group	In Progress
Strategic Direction I: Building Capacity for Data Use and Planning	<b>Assemble and release second annual report card on homelessness</b>	Q4, 2016	DSSMSSAB	Scheduled for completion end of 2017

## Training

- OrgCode Consulting was contracted again in 2016 to provide valuable training for the community as well as for the Homelessness Prevention Team Members. On May 2, Iain DeJong provided training on “Supporting People in Sex Work and

Victims of Trafficking, and on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, provided job shadowing and feedback for the Homelessness Prevention Team.

### **Urgent Homeless Category**

- The addition of the Urgent Homeless Category to the Sault Ste. Marie Centralized Housing Registry in Jan. 2015 has resulted in 43 individuals being housed to date. The intensive housing based case management services being offered to stabilize these tenancies has been a great success. The Housing First approach being utilized has made a difference in the lives of many of the clients being housed under this category. We have also seen individuals exit the urgent homeless program and be successful in maintaining their tenancy.

### **Homelessness Prevention Team**

- The Homelessness Prevention team expanded its membership in 2016 to include Ontario Disability Support Program, Ontario Works, and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services Regular weekly meetings continue with several agencies including: John Howard Society, Canadian Mental Health, Community Mental Health, United Way, Pauline's Place, Vincent Place, Indian Friendship Centre, and Sault Area Hospital. This team continues to be instrumental in supporting individuals who are homeless and/or at risk of being homeless.

### **Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit**

- The DSSMSSAB was one of the pilot sites chosen to administer the SDV-PHB in 2016. We provided detailed information to the researchers for several months and were pleased with information contained in the final report. The benefit provided easier access and flexibility to housing for many of the survivors and continues to be a great success.

### **Point-In-Time Count**

- Sault Ste. Marie conducted its first Point in-time count in February of 2016. This PIT count resulted in funding being allocated to hire an Aboriginal Housing Based Case Manager. The next PIT count is scheduled for 2018.

# 2017 Goals and Objectives

## **Food Bank**

- *Review food bank system and implement recommendations.*

## **Funding Applications**

- Submitted applications in Spring of 2017 for funding:
  - Home For Good

## **Affordable Housing and Homelessness Working Group**

The implementation of a working group will begin in the fall of 2017 to address funding and Affordable Housing and Homelessness related issues.

## **10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan**

Housing Programs will continue to focus on the five strategic directions contained within the 10 Year Housing and Homeless plan until 2024.

1. Expand access to affordable housing
2. Foster the development of an integrated system of housing and homelessness services
3. Enhance support services for homelessness individuals and families
4. Develop solutions to prevent homelessness.
5. Engage in on going planning.