



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated June 6, 2024

County of Simcoe Providing Rapid Rehousing in the Town of Collingwood

What is the Supportive Rapid Rehousing Program (SRRP)?

This temporary program is designed to assist individuals, previously identified as situationally homeless, to transition into permanent housing within 180 days. It is a supportive environment that provides full services in addition to housing and support to individuals in need and assists them in securing permanent housing quickly.

What type of services are provided to people through the SRRP?

People who live in the SRRP units are supported in all aspects of the move-in process, including unit viewings, reviewing leases, furnishing apartments, and establishing connections with on-going follow up supports. During the housing period, residents receive full services based on their needs, including mental health, addiction, and employment supports. Individuals are further supported by an intensive six-month post-placement component to increase their success.

Who will run the program?

The County will be contracting a qualified agency to provide comprehensive, 24/7 on-site services, staffed with trained professionals. The aim is to have the program operational this summer.

Is this an emergency shelter?

No. This temporary program is designed to assist individuals, previously identified as situationally homeless, to transition into permanent housing within 180 days. It is a supportive environment that provides full services.

Will people be living there permanently? How long will the temporary structure be in place?

No. The goal of this program is to transition people into their permanent housing within 180 days. The modular facility that you will see installed will be a temporary one, and is not a long-term, permanent structure. Contractual agreements authorized it to be placed at the site for up to five years.

Where will the temporary structure be located?

*A modular, pre-built housing structure will be placed on a Town of Collingwood approved location known as **The Common Roof property, located at 199 Campbell Street, Collingwood** (currently home to 6 community based non-profit organizations and groups), in June to serve as housing for the SRRP program. The modular structure will be placed on the north-west portion of the property (please see enclosed site map under review by the Town of Collingwood). This is privately-owned property by The Common Roof.*

How many people will be helped through this SRRP in Collingwood?

Once the facility has been placed and an operator has been contracted, this program will support 10-15 participants within the first six months of the project and 40-80 participants within the first year, which could amount to 100-150 participants over the project's five-year duration.

Do you have any experience with a similar program in the past? How well has it worked?

A similar temporary structure has been successfully utilized by the County in the City of Barrie on Rose Street. While being operated as a transitional housing program, the initiative in Barrie led to 18 clients (90% of the participants) moving to permanent housing in a limited period, which is the ultimate goal of the program. The County also recently opened a youth-based SRRP program embedded in the City of Orillia.

Why is this program needed? Don't we have shelters for this?

This initiative in Collingwood is expected to create space in the region's existing shelter system, as the two programs work together to move people from situational homelessness to permanent housing through a system-wide approach.

Dispelling common myths

Myth: Property values will go down.

Reality: Many studies on affordable housing conclude that there is no impact on property values.¹ One study done in Toronto found that, "there was no evidence that the existence of the supportive housing buildings studied has negatively affected either property values or crime rates in the neighbourhood. Property values have increased and crime decreased in the period considered by the study."²

¹ Ontario HomeComing Coalition, *Yes, In My Backyard – A Guide for Ontario Supportive Housing Providers*, 2005, p. 27

² de Wolff, Alice. *We are Neighbours: The Impact of Supportive Housing on Community, Social, Economic, and Attitude Changes*, 2008, Wellesley Institute, p.iv.

Myth: Crime will increase.

Reality: A Canadian study of 146 supportive housing sites concluded that “there was no statistically significant evidence that supportive housing led to increased rates of reported violent, property, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct or total crimes.”³ In fact, the future occupants of new affordable housing often already live in the neighbourhood.

How do I find out more about this program?

For information on the temporary SRRP housing, visit www.simcoe.ca/SRRP

Project Contact Details:

County of Simcoe’s Community Services department at (705) 722-3132, extension 1470.

Town of Collingwood Housing Coordinator, Claire de Souza cdesouza@collingwood.ca or 705-445-1030 extension 3242.

³ George Galster, Kathryn Pettit, Anna Santiago, and Peter Tatian, *The Impact of Supportive Housing on Neighbourhood Crime Rates*, 2002.