

Partnerships in Preventing Homelessness

MCSS SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES

PURPOSE / OUTLINE

- Highlight the successes & challenges of working across Ministries & with Service Delivery Partners regarding homelessness prevention measures.
- Focus will be on the 3 major MCSS Program Areas:
 - i. Social Assistance (Ontario Works & ODSP).
 - ii. Violence Against Women.
 - iii. Developmental Services.

BACKGROUND

- Most significant changes were made as a result of the 2012 Provincial Budget.
- The Ministry of Community & Social Services (MCSS) integrated housing & homelessness support programs to better suit peoples' needs.
- First Nations communities were engaged & included in these changes.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Ontario Works (OW): funding is cost-shared with municipalities.

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP): funding is 100% provincial.

Caseload data:

- As of June 2014 there are 455,908 individuals in receipt of Ontario Works.
- As of June 2014 there are 444,688 individuals in receipt of ODSP.

PARTNERSHIPS IN PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing

- Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).
- Emergency Shelters & Domiciliary Hostels.

Municipalities

- Discretionary Residency Benefit / Emergency Energy Assistance.

First Nations

- Transitional Support Funding.

CHALLENGES & SUCCESSES

Challenges

- Limited funds.
- Communication.
- Duplication of work.

Successes

- Excellent working relationships.
- Common goals.
- Creation of the Social Assistance Operations Division (SAOD).

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Violence Against Women (VAW) sector includes:

- Community-based emergency shelter services.
- Counselling.
- Transitional housing support.
- and other programs.

PARTNERSHIPS IN PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

Ministry of the Attorney General

- Second-stage housing projects.

Municipalities

- Ontario Works
- Municipal Housing

First Nations

- Aboriginal Healing & Wellness Strategy (AHWS).

Ontario Women's Directorate

- Specialized funding.

CHALLENGES & SUCCESSES

Challenges

- Very limited funds with no increase in funding for the past several years.
- Communication.
- Stigma.

Successes

- Increase in second-stage housing projects.
- Strong working relationships.
- Common goals.
- Renewed focus.

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

- Community inclusion for adults with a developmental disability and their families.
- Community agencies deliver most of the available services and supports.
- Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) is the Service Manager & helps clients connect to services & supports in their communities. There are 9 DSOs across Ontario.

PARTNERSHIPS IN PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

For Profit & Not For Profit Agencies

- Group homes.
- Supportive living arrangements.

Family Homes

- Kin relations or Familyhome program.

Municipalities

- Housing developments.

CHALLENGES & SUCCESSES

Challenges

- Waitlists for services.
- Urgent care needs.
- Compliance with requirements for group homes.
- Need for better strategic partnerships.

Successes

- Increased number of granny flats being built.
- Increased units in apartment buildings dedicated to Supportive Living.
- Community inclusion.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Collaboration is key:

- Continue to build & foster relationships.
- Continue to develop more strategic partnerships.
- Information sharing.



“Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.” Mattie Spetanek.

CONTACT

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