

Provincial Housing and Homelessness Plan Requirements
*Pursuant to the Housing Services Act, 2011, Regulations made under the Act
and the Housing Policy Statement*

A. Planning Requirements

- Each Service Manager shall have a Plan to address Housing and Homelessness.
- The approved Plan must encompass a 10 year period, with a review and reporting at least once every 5 years.
- The planning process must incorporate public consultation and must reflect the “active engagement” of housing providers.
- Prior to approving the Plan, the Service Manager must submit the proposed plan to the Minister for comment. The Province has committed to respond within 90 days of receipt. The final Plan approved by Council/DSSAB must consider any provincial comments and be submitted to the Province in a timely manner.
- The final approved Plan must be in place no later than January 1, 2014.
- Any amendments to the Plan must incorporate public consultations and require Ministerial comment. A report on the mandatory cyclical updates to the Plan must also be submitted to the Minister.

B. Mandatory Components of the Plan

Service Managers are required to develop local Housing and Homelessness Plans that:

1. Identify current and future local housing needs
2. Include objectives and targets (goals) relating to housing needs
3. Describe measures (actions) proposed to meet these goals
4. Describe how progress towards meeting the identified goals will be measured

C. Provincial Interests

The Plan must address matters of provincial interest identified in section 4 of the Act. The Provincial interest is defined as having a system of housing and homelessness services that:

- a) is focused on achieving positive outcomes for individuals and families;
- b) addresses the housing needs of individuals and families in order to help address other challenges they face;
- c) has a role for non-profit corporations and non-profit housing cooperatives;
- d) has a role for the private market in meeting housing needs;
- e) provides for partnerships among governments and others in the community;
- f) treats individuals and families with respect and dignity;
- g) is co-ordinated with other community services;
- h) is relevant to local circumstances;
- i) allows for a range of housing options to meet a broad range of needs;
- j) ensures appropriate accountability for public funding;
- k) supports economic prosperity; and
- l) is delivered in a manner that promotes environmental sustainability and energy conservation.

Regulation 367/11, section 3 through 5 further requires that the Plan explicitly address the housing needs of victims of domestic violence and persons with disabilities.

The Plan must also be consistent with the Ontario Housing Policy Statement issued pursuant to section 5 of the Act as summarized in the table below:

**Ontario Housing Policy Statement
Summary of Provincial Objectives & Anticipated Results**

Provincial Objective	Specific Requirements
Accountability and Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Demonstrate a system of coordinated housing and homelessness services to assist families and individuals to move toward a level of self-sufficiency; b) Include services, supported by housing and homelessness research and forecasts, that are designed to improve outcomes for individuals and families c) Be coordinated and integrated with all municipalities in the service area; d) Contain strategies to increase awareness of, and improve access to, affordable and safe housing that is linked to supports, homelessness prevention and social programs and services; e) Contain strategies to identify and reduce gaps in programs, services and supports and focus on achieving positive outcomes for individuals and families; f) Contain local housing policies and short and long-term housing targets; g) Provide for public consultation, progress measurement, and reporting
Anticipated Results	Measurable, improved outcomes for individuals and families will be achieved through increased access to locally relevant programs, services, and supports that are coordinated and address identified needs. Service Managers will be able to demonstrate accountability for achieving these results in a fiscally responsible manner.
Goal of Ending Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide measures to prevent homelessness by supporting people to stay in their homes including eviction prevention measures and the provision of supports appropriate to clients’ needs; b) Are based on a Housing First philosophy and developed in consultation with a broad range of local stakeholders including those who have experienced homelessness; c) Support innovative strategies to address homelessness; d) Include the provision of supports prior to and after obtaining housing to facilitate transitioning people from the street and shelters to safe, adequate and stable housing.
Anticipated Results	Communities will have strategies to prevent and to reduce homelessness and assist people who are homeless to find and keep housing and be able to demonstrate that these strategies have a measurable impact on at-risk and homeless individuals and families.

Provincial Objective	Specific Requirements
Non-Profit Housing Corporations and Non-Profit Housing Co-Operatives	a) Reflect the active engagement of non-profit housing corporations and non-profit housing co-operatives in current and future needs planning; b) Include strategies to support non-profit housing corporations and non-profit housing co-operatives in the delivery of affordable housing; c) Include strategies to support ongoing access to affordable housing by preserving existing social housing capacity.
Anticipated Results	Community-based approaches to social housing are maintained through the continuous engagement and support of non-profit housing corporations and non-profit housing co-operatives, so that affordable options that exist today will continue to be available in the future.
Private Market	a) Set out a strategy to generate municipal support for an active and vital private ownership and rental market, including second units and garden suites, as a necessary part of the housing continuum including affordable home ownership, where appropriate.
Anticipated Results	Current and future housing needs within the service area that can be addressed by the private market are identified, targets are established, and progress is measured. Second units and garden suites are promoted and supported.
Co-ordination with Other Community Services	a) Demonstrate how progress will be made in moving toward integrated human services planning and delivery.
Anticipated Results	Improved integration of housing and homelessness plans and services with other human services planning and delivery will result in better outcomes for the people accessing services.
Broad Range of Community Needs	a) Accessibility: Contain an assessment of needs that identifies and sets local requirements for accessible housing and homelessness services for people with disabilities, including those who have mental health needs or illness and/or substance use issues b) Special Priority Policy: Include a strategy setting out how the housing needs for victims of domestic violence will be addressed and managed at the local level, in coordination with other community-based services and supports c) Aboriginal Peoples Living Off-Reserve: Identify and consider the housing needs of Aboriginal Peoples living off-reserve d) Community Needs: Reflect the evolving demographics of their community and address the needs of specific local groups. Local groups might include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seniors • youth • women • immigrants • Franco-Ontarians • persons released from custody or under community supervision • Crown Wards

Provincial Objective	Specific Requirements
Broad Range of Community Needs Anticipated Results	Community integration and diversity will be reflected through meeting the needs of people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, Aboriginal Peoples living off- reserve, and those in other locally defined groups.
Environmental Sustainability and Energy Conservation	a) Demonstrate a commitment to improve the energy efficiency of existing and future publicly funded housing stock.
Anticipated Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Managers will provide specific strategies to build a more energy efficient publicly funded housing portfolio while helping create a stronger, cleaner economy that better protects our environment.

D. Provincial Program Consolidation Exercise

The Plans will also need to reflect the consolidation of the following programs currently funded by the Province and delivered by Service Managers:

- Homeless Prevention Program
- Emergency Energy Fund
- Emergency Hostels
- Domiciliary Hostels
- Rent Bank

Consolidation will likely be implemented through a local delivery plan (logically a sub-section of the broader Housing and Homelessness plan) and an administrative/funding agreement between the Province and the Region. Regional staff participated in the first phase of the consolidation consultations. Further engagement with the Province is expected after the election.

E. Provincial Reporting Requirements

Service Managers will be required to report on the implementation of the housing and homelessness plans. The content and timing of the reports will be prescribed by regulation. Provincial staff have acknowledged the need to rationalize existing reporting requirements before adding more and have indicated that they will be consulting with service managers on this issue later this year.