District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administrative Board
10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Update
2024

Strategic Direction	Action	Timeline	Responsibility	Measures Taken
Strategic Direction 1: Expand access to affordable housing in the Service Area	Evaluate the feasibility of a local fund such as a reserve fund or affordable rental housing and affordable ownership housing.	2024	DSSMSSAB	The purchase and renovation of properties continues with Ontario Works participants involved in the renovation of the homes. Once complete, the homes are sold at an affordable rate to eligible families that reside in units owned by the Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation. Two homes were purchased in 2024 for this purpose. One family moved into a newly renovated home as part of the Affordable Home Ownership program in 2024
Strategic Direction 1: Expand access to affordable housing in the Service Area	Dedicate additional funds to provide rent supplements to help single adult households on the waitlist access units in the private market as appropriate	2024	DSSMSSAB	In 2024, a total of 85 subsidies (Portable Housing Benefit and Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit) were provided. As of December 31, 2024, a total of 454 subsidies has been provided to support clients in the private sector.
Strategic Direction 2: Foster the Development of an Integrated System of Housing and Homelessness Services	Encourage service provider agencies to share office space in geographic areas that are identified as high- need to streamline client access and improve service provider collaboration	2024	DSSMSSAB	Additional agencies secured to provide services in the Community Resource Centre which opened in October 2023. With several service providers sharing office space and offering services/supports to those most vulnerable in our community.

Strategic Direction 2: Foster the Development of an Integrated System of Homelessness services	Ensure a multi sectoral process for addressing encampments	2024	DSSMSSAB Service Providers	DSSMSSAB continues to coordinate and provide outreach services, along with other service providers, in the city of Sault Ste. Marie to address encampments. In 2024, a total of 32 encampments were identified and addressed.
Strategic Direction 2: Foster the Development of an Integrated System of Homelessness services	Identify opportunities to build partnerships between "mainstream" and Indigenous-Focused agencies to ensure homelessness serving providers and housing services providers are able to offer culturally appropriate supports to Indigenous people living in the Service Area who require assistance.	2024	DSSMSSAB, Service Providers	Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council, continues to offer culturally appropriate supports for individuals at risk of homelessness and for those experiencing homelessness. Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services continues to provide Intensive Housing Based Case management services through the Indigenous Urgent Homeless Program as well as being an active partner in street outreach.
Strategic Direction 2: Foster the Development of an Integrated System of Homelessness Services	Access to homelessness services is streamlined	2024	DSSMSSAB	Involvement with Built for Zero Canada continues to ensure the data being collected is reliable and accurate. The Coordinated Access Committee continues to meet to ensure all services provided to those experiencing homelessness, and those at risk of homelessness, are streamlined. The Coordinated Access system now includes applications for supportive housing facilitating access to appropriate housing and support services.

Strategic Direction 2: Foster the Development of an Integrated System of Homelessness Services	Coordinate training between agencies to maximize available funds for professional development and ensure greater dissemination of best practices among local service providers	2024	DSSMSSAB, Service Providers	Ongoing training continues with agencies to ensure best practices across the sector. (Hifis, Built for Zero, Org Code, etc.)
Strategic Direction 3: Enhance Housing Support Services for Homeless Individuals and Families	In the long term, evaluate the feasibility of establishing a single-site permanent supportive housing program for very high acuity individuals who need 24-hour support	2024	DSSMSSAB, Service Providers	10 women moved into 24/7 supportive housing program situated at 101 Chapple Street. DSSMSSAB partnered with Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council and the ADSAB, to provide approximately 49 single units to deliver a supportive transitional housing program. DSSMSSAB purchased and renovated a 3-bedroom home to provide an aftercare program for those exiting land-based treatment offered by Niigaaniin.
Strategic Direction 3: Enhance Housing Support Services for Homeless Individuals and Families	On site coaching and evaluation of shelter service/bridge unit delivery.	2024	DSSMSSAB	In 2024, emphasis was placed on the monitoring and evaluation of shelter/bridge services in both shelter locations to ensure effective program delivery. OrgCode Consulting and the DSSMSSAB continue to provide training and support as required.

Strategic Direction 3: Enhance Housing Support Services for Homeless Individuals and Families	Work with Domestic Violence shelters to identify opportunities to provide ongoing supports through partnerships	2024	DSSMSSAB, Service Providers	Construction of an 11 plex situated in the west end of Sault Ste. Marie began in 2024. This transitional supportive housing complex will be dedicated to women who have experienced intimate partner violence. The building consists of accessible, one, two, and three-bedroom units.
Strategic Direction 4: Re-focus Solutions to Prevent Homelessness	Engage in additional outreach to vulnerable households to help prevent crises that result in housing loss.	2024	DSSMSSAB, Service Providers	The DSSMSSAB continues to fund a Community Shelter Diversion Worker who works with landlords and tenants in the private sector by providing mediation, referrals, etc. in order to maintain tenancies.
Strategic Direction 5: Build Capacity for Data Use and Planning	Conduct annual training with agency staff to ensure high quality data gathering	2024	DSSMSSAB	DSSMSSAB continues to provide ongoing training related to data collection. Hifis was upgraded in 2024 to the latest version that includes additional modules to address encampments as well as diversion.