**Canadian 20,000 Homes Campaign**

 **Waterloo Region Registry Pilot - Why Doing**

**We Need to Do It…**

* With K-W Out of the Cold closures, there is a need to confirm and more transparently demonstrate an awareness of those experiencing homelessness across our community.
* With additional resources to STEP Home (including intensive support and up to 40 rent subsidies), we need some method to support collective decision-making within STEP Home about who receives these resources. We will use the results of the VI-SPDAT to help inform STEP Home about connecting resources to those experiencing persistent homelessness that are the most vulnerable.
* We will be required through our Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding to conduct a point in time count (PIT count). While the Registry Week is not a PIT count (rather it is an intervention – the continuation of the work through STEP Home and the start of a process to collectively identify those experiencing homelessness who are the most vulnerable and house them as quickly as possible), we are hoping that it will serve as our requirement to do a PIT count.

**We Want to Do It…**

* Will help us fulfill action areas within the Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy Action Framework:
* Strategic Direction #4 – Promote a shared approach to ending homelessness with the support of individuals, groups, and other sectors
	+ - Action 21 – Support/involve business
		- Action 22 – Support/involve funders
		- Action 23 – Support/involve general public
		- Action 24 – Support/involve media
		- Action 25 – Support/involve private market landlords
		- Action 26 – Support a coordinated approach to engagement with community partners
* Strategic Direction #6 – Tailor approaches according to people’s “strength of association with homelessness”
	+ - Action 33 - Increase capacity of STEP Home to end persistent homelessness
* Alignment with current and emerging practices:
* Utilizes the VI-SPDAT (pre-screen) which we have begun using in our community.
* Focuses on “Housing First” which has been identified as a principle and expectation within our federal HPS funding, our provincial Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding and our local Housing and Homelessness Plan.
* Supports our Housing Stability System Learning Culture – with support and experience from Community Solutions with the U.S. 100,000 Homes Campaigns that we can draw from.
* We are the first pilot site for the Canadian 20,000 Homes Campaign - we want opportunity to support and influence the Campaign going forward.

**How is it happening?**

* The Region of the Waterloo is coordinating with support from agencies within the local housing stability system and with current and former K-W Out of the Cold sites. Our community is being supported in the process by the Canadian Alliance to end Homelessness and Community Solutions (the organization who coordinated the U.S. 100,000 Homes Campaign).
* Quickly - the Registry Week was confirmed and organizing began in early October. The Registry Week starts with volunteer training on November 24 and wraps up December 3rd with the Community Debrief event.
* The cost to participate is $12,000 which is being shared between the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and the Region of Waterloo. Sponsorships have been secured for additional costs.
* Staff from key housing stability agencies along with volunteers from K-W Out of the Cold and other invited volunteers will conduct the health and housing survey with people experiencing homelessness during the Registry Week.

**Who is it for?**

* For people surveyed – to support their connection to services and to be considered for additional resources within STEP Home. Survey participants will also receive a $10 gift certificate to Tim Horton’s to thank them for their time.
* For the community – increased information and awareness of homelessness in our community plus actionable data that will be used to help inform allocation of resources within STEP Home in continued effort to end persistent homelessness in Waterloo Region.
* Focus on singles currently experiencing homelessness (on the street, in emergency shelter and/or known to STEP Home and at-imminent risk or hidden homeless through couch-surfing or in hospital or correction facilities). Families are being served/supported separately through the [Emergency Shelter Diversion](http://socialservices.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/communityPlanningPartnerships/resources/DOCS_ADMIN-1647862-v4-Family_Shelter_Diversion_2-Pager.pdf#Shelter Diversion for Families 2014) pilot.

**What metrics are available to demonstrate success of the US 100K Homes program?**

* Achieved Goal - The campaign ran from to July 2010 to July 2014 in which time 186 cities, counties and states housed 105,580 vulnerable and persistently homeless individuals and families (people were counted as permanently housed if they signed a lease). Eighteen communities participated in a housing retention study that showed 85% retained their housing at one year (this is similar to findings of At-Home/Chez-Soi).
* Ending Homelessness Faster - Communities participating in the Campaign achieved significant improvement in their housing performance. They went from housing an average of 1.6 percent of their chronically homeless populations each month to 5.1 percent. Additionally, 60 of these communities in 2014 are now on track to end chronic homelessness outright in the next three years - in 2011, that number was just twelve.
* Taxpayer Savings - An analysis developed by Liana Downey and Associates, a strategic government advisory firm, estimates the total taxpayer savings from housing 100,000 chronically homeless Americans at more than $1.3 billion annually, based on a review of existing studies.