

Supportive Housing to End Chronic Homelessness

Presented by the Toronto Political Advocacy Committee

Who we are

The Toronto Political Advocacy Committee (TPAC) is a group of medical students from the University of Toronto that advocate for the attainment of the highest standards of physical and mental wellbeing for the city of Toronto's homeless community. Our advocacy efforts are community informed and are grounded in the principles of the social determinants of health.

Our ask

We ask Toronto City Council, specifically the Executive Committee, the Planning and Housing Committee, and the Board of Health to commit to the following:

1. Commit to building 7,200 supportive housing units over this term of council, consistent with the commitment from the City of Toronto to build 18,000 supportive housing units over 10 years. These units will begin to address the issue of chronic homelessness, specifically stemming from chronic illness and substance use disorders, in the City of Toronto.
2. As part of the Housing Now Initiative, require *all* proposed plans that intend to build upon the 11 city-owned sites to include a commitment to supportive housing that adequately consults with community stakeholders, such that the proposed units reflect the needs of those they intend to serve.

Our question

How do you plan on achieving the supportive housing target you set for yourself?

Contact us

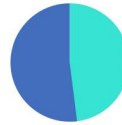
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Why

Chronic homelessness is increasing

8,715

Total estimated homeless population in Toronto (April 2018)



48% are chronically homeless (homeless >6 months)

The homeless have complex health needs



57% have 1+ type of health condition



32% have a mental health issue



27% have a substance use disorder



23% have a physical disability

Supportive housing can address these needs



Supportive housing can assist people who are homeless and face barriers to housing, like mental illness, substance use and disability.



Supportive housing results in reduced health care use and service demands: fewer emergency visits, hospital stays, and ambulance calls; and less pressure on emergency shelters.



Supportive housing costs \$25 – \$31 per day.

- Shelter bed: \$61/day
- Psychiatric inpatient bed: \$66/day

We need more supportive housing

4,000

High demand: In a recent two-year period, 4,000+ new people applied while less than 600 were placed in supportive housing.

60%

Long wait times: 60% of applicants on the waitlist had been waiting for 2+ years; those waiting longest had been waiting 4.5+ years.

1,278

There's not enough: only 1,278 new units will be provided over the next 3 years.

Case studies

Finland's Housing First Initiative provided each homeless person with supportive housing. Result: 33.3% reduction in homelessness and annual government savings of \$23,200/individual.

USA's 100,000 Homes Campaigns provided supportive housing to individuals at the greatest risk of premature mortality. Result: 90% retention rate among those housed and lower hospital costs.