

Housing Loss Prevention and Encampment Response Strategy

District of Parry Sound



Social Services
Administration Board



What people think homelessness looks like



What homelessness can also look like

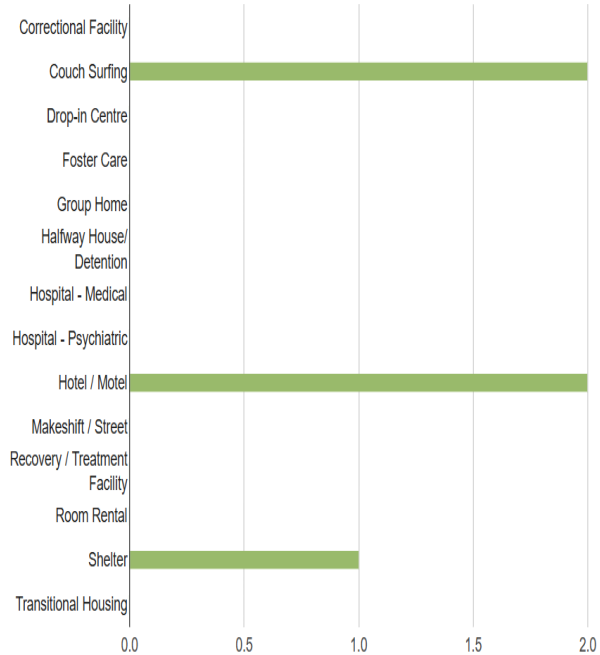


What does homelessness look like in the District of Parry Sound

ACTIVE CLIENTS BY CURRENT SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

[Print](#)

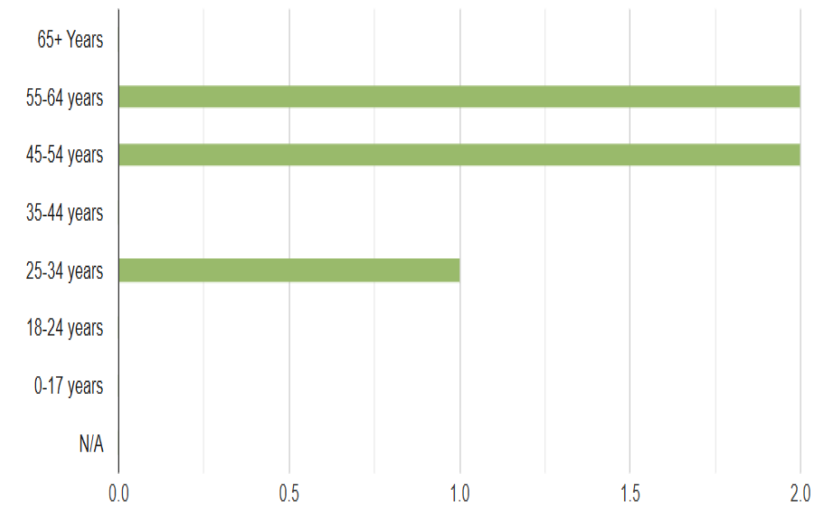
Arrangements	Clients
Correctional Facility	0
Couch Surfing	2
Drop-in Centre	0
Foster Care	0
Group Home	0
Halfway House/Detention	0
Hospital - Medical	0
Hospital - Psychiatric	0
Hotel / Motel	2
Makeshift / Street	0
Recovery / Treatment Facility	0



[View All Results](#)

ACTIVE CLIENTS BY AGE

Age Range	Clients
65+ Years	0
55-64 years	2
45-54 years	2
35-44 years	0
25-34 years	1
18-24 years	0
0-17 years	0
N/A	0



Overview



In Early 2025 we engaged OrgCode to create a Housing Loss Prevention and Encampment Response Strategy. They spent time with our teams, our management and our community partners to get a clear picture of the local context when it comes to homelessness in the District of Parry Sound.



From this engagement they helped us define the scope and language of our work and maintain and celebrate our work in Housing Loss Prevention. From this, the DSSAB identified a goal of "Ending Chronic Homelessness in 2026" and to make homelessness 'rare, brief and non-recurring' and purposeful approach to prevention in our District.



The focus of this presentation is to highlight the work we have done and continue to do towards that goal and in 3 key areas of the strategy...Definitions, Data Informed Decision Making and Community Engagement

What is 'Housing Loss Prevention'

PREVENTION (Lower Cost)

Short term rent arrears or utility assistance

Mediation with landlords

Accessing Rent Supplement or Canadian Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)

Light Case Management

AFTER HOMELESSNESS (Higher Cost)

Emergency Shelters/Hotels/Motels

Outreach and crisis response

Policing, Bylaw enforcement

Emergency Healthcare

Court & Justice involvement

Intense Case Management

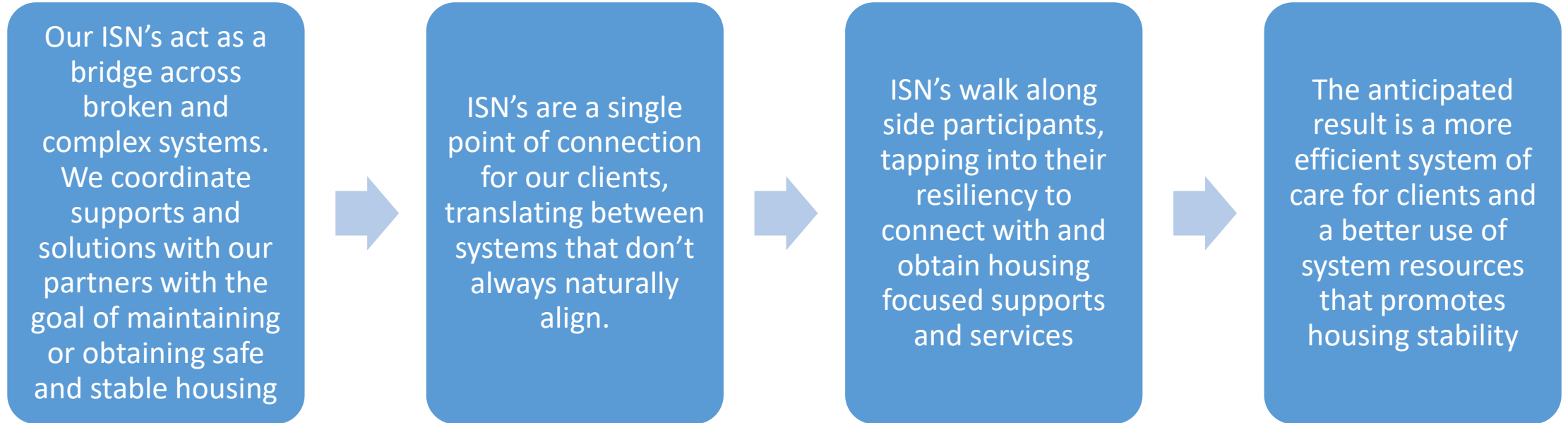
Reflections from 2025



Homelessness is a structural issue, and structural issues are fixable.

Communities across Canada are showing that prevention works. Let's keep building toward a future where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

The Role of our Integrated System Navigators (ISN)



Definitions-Speaking the Same Language

- **Homelessness:** is the situation of an individual or family without stable, safe, permanent, and appropriate housing, or the immediate ability to acquire it
- **Encampment:** Encampments are outdoor locations with a group of tents, makeshift shelters, or other informal structures where two or more individuals reside for extended periods.
- **Housing Loss Prevention:** prevention includes a range of evidence-informed policies and interventions aimed at stopping housing loss before it occurs.
- **Rapid Resolution:** occurs within the first few weeks of a shelter stay (the shorter the better) or time on the street when an individual/couple/family cannot be diverted.
- **Diversion:** occur once an individual/couple/family has lost their housing, but prior to shelter entry or first night sleeping outside.
- **By Name List (BNL):** By Name List refers to a real time, person specific list used by service providers to track and coordinate services for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- These shared definitions support local collaboration and coordinated efforts to address homelessness across the district
- These definitions are grounded in evidence and National best practices on homelessness response

Living in Motel	Status	Living with Friends & Family	Status	Living in a room	Status	Living in a trailer	Status
Are they living there with support of an agency. Example OPP voucher	Homeless	Have they been living there for over 6 months	Housed	Is there a transaction for use of the space. (paying a monthly fee)	Housed	Is there access to water and hydro	Housed
Are they living there of their own self determination and able to reasonably afford it.	Housed	Do they pay rent or contribute to the household	Housed	Do they have used of a kitchen and washroom	Housed	Do they have the right to be on the land they are on	Housed
Do they want to continue living there long term, with or with out financial assistance	Housed	Are they actively being asked to leave but are able to stay until they find new accommodation	Housing loss prevention	Do they want to continue to living there long term	Housed	No hydro and water	Homeless
Are they ok living there for now with out assistance of a voucher, but eventually would like to move	Housing loss Prevention	Do they need to leave today	Diversion	Are they okay living there in the short term but would eventually like to move	Housing loss prevention	Is the trailer in a grouping of other trailers, tents and shacks	Encampment

Progressive Engagement

An approach that starts with the least intensive services and scales up based on participant needs and preference. It prioritizes relationship-building, participant autonomy, and housing-focused outcomes while avoiding unnecessary barriers

Rapid Resolution

Rapid Resolution activities occur within the first few weeks of a shelter stay (the shorter the better) or time on the street when an individual/couple/family cannot be diverted.



Definitions

Homelessness:

Homelessness is the situation of an individual or family without stable, safe, permanent, and appropriate housing, or the immediate ability to acquire it. It includes those staying in emergency shelter, living unsheltered in public or private spaces not meant for habitation, provisionally accommodated. (e.g. couch surfing) or discharged from institutions with no housing to return to. Homelessness exists on a spectrum from hidden to episodic to chronic and unsheltered, shaped by structural inequities and system gaps,

Diversion

Diversion activities occur once an individual/couple/family has lost their housing, but prior to shelter entry or first night sleeping outside. Explore safe, appropriate options in community or mediation.

Prevention

Homelessness prevention includes a range of evidence-informed polices and interventions aimed at stopping housing loss before it occurs. This includes:

- Assistance with rental or utility arrears
- Conflict resolution and mediation services
- Legal-aid and eviction prevention supports
- Safety Planning and relocation for survivors of violence
- Housing-focused discharge planning from hospitals, corrections or care systems.

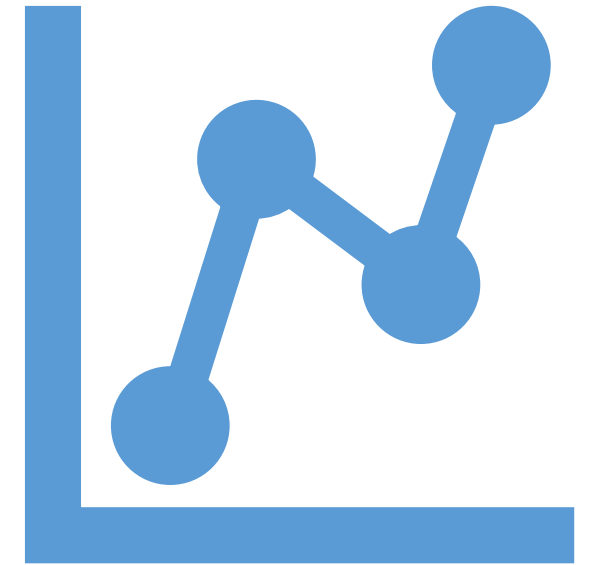
Prevention efforts require early identification, coordinated assessment, and individualized, housing-focused support.

Encampment

Encampments are outdoor locations with a group of tents, makeshift shelters, or other information structures where two or more individual reside for extended periods. Often located in parks, wooded areas, riverbanks, or urban underpasses, encampments for when people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are unable to access, safe, appropriate or low barrier alternatives.

Data-Informed Decision Making

- We have been working to enhance our data analysis capabilities.
- We have begun building dashboards in Power BI to visualize the true impact of our prevention work through a political, community and staff lens. This work will continue and be enhanced over time.
- Our By Name List work shows the progress we have made towards our goals ending chronic homelessness in the district....



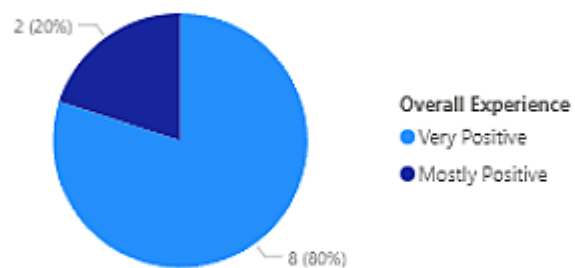
Transitional Units

Our mission is to assist individuals in change while providing individualized and wrap around supports to facilitate a safe and successful transition to appropriate housing. This program is an intensive program that works with participants to provide safe and secure transitional housing to support the development of employment, educational and life skills. Our goal is to provide the skills needed to find and maintain housing on their own.

- Locations:
- 4 in South River
- 1 in Powassan
- 1 in Parry Sound

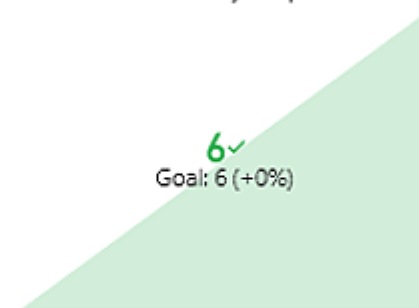


Transitional Housing Program-Overall Experience



60%
Housed at 6 Months Rate

Housed 6 months by Preparedness



Support Level-Transitional Housing Program

Support Level

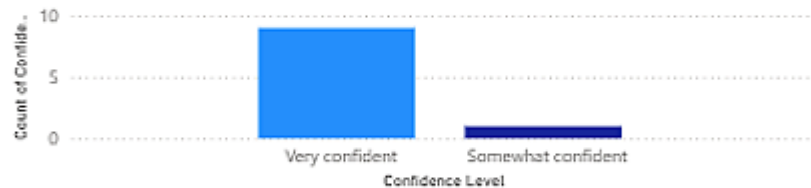
- Somewhat Supported
- Very Supported



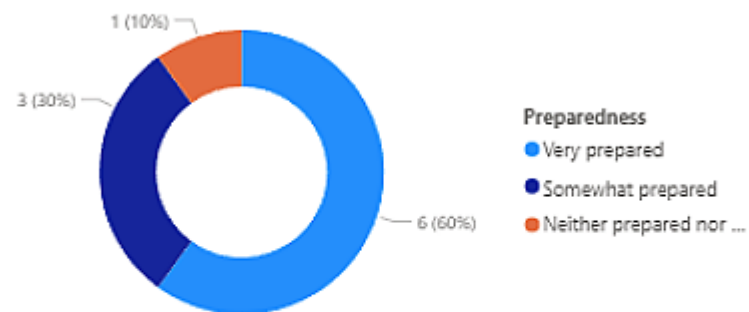
Confidence Level of Transitional Housing Program Participants

Confidence Level

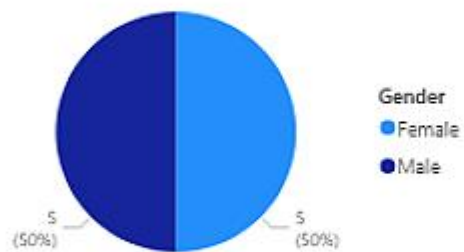
- Very confident
- Somewhat confident



Preparedness Level of Transitional Housing Participants

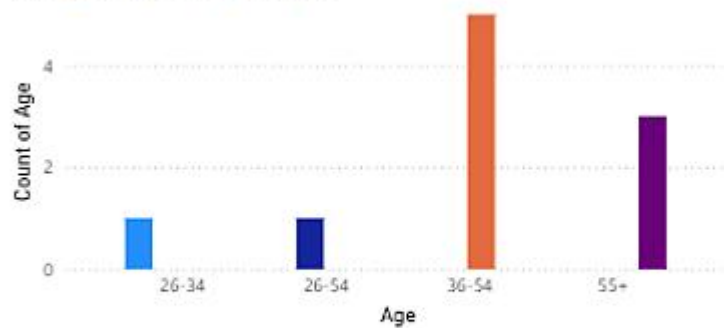


Gender



Age of Participants

Age ● 26-34 ● 26-54 ● 36-54 ● 55+



9

Count of Was participant on BNL at program entry

A Cost-Effective Investment

The average costs per individual per month (Pomeroy, 2005; Shapcott, 2007; Ontario, 2024) in different settings:



\$31,500

Psychiatric hospitals



\$17,000

Inpatient mental health bed



\$11,000

Correctional facilities



\$3,300

Emergency shelters



\$2,000 - \$5,000

MHA supportive housing unit
(low – high support)

Table 5. Average annual and monthly operating cost.	High Support	Medium Support	Low Support
Average monthly cost	\$4,941	\$2,157	\$2,023
Average annual cost	\$59,291	\$25,879	\$24,272

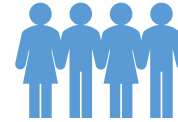
By-Name List



The By Name List is a real-time tracking tool that measures inflow and outflow of homelessness and supports the System of Care towards coordinated housing focused solutions



A full review was completed in 2025 to ensure accuracy and alignment with the objective definitions and triaging algorithm

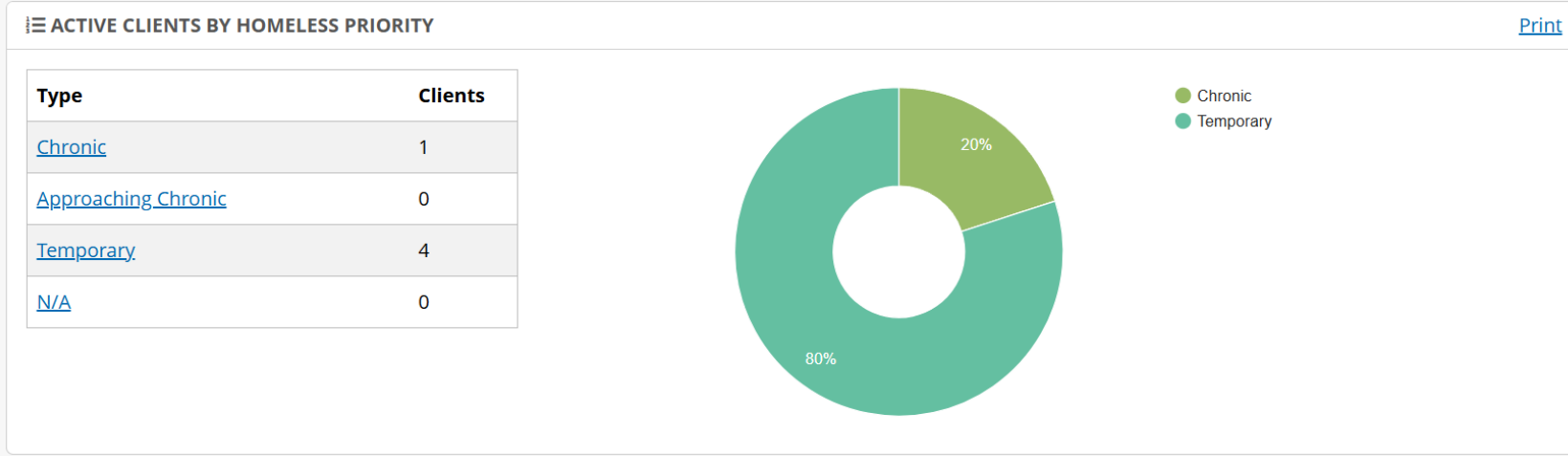
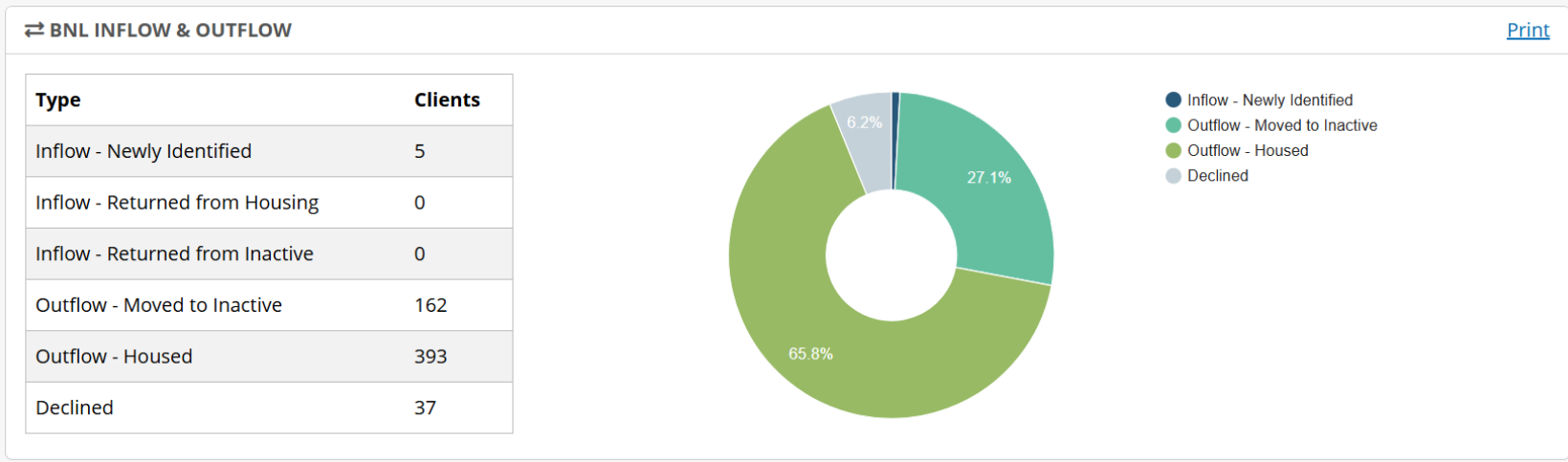
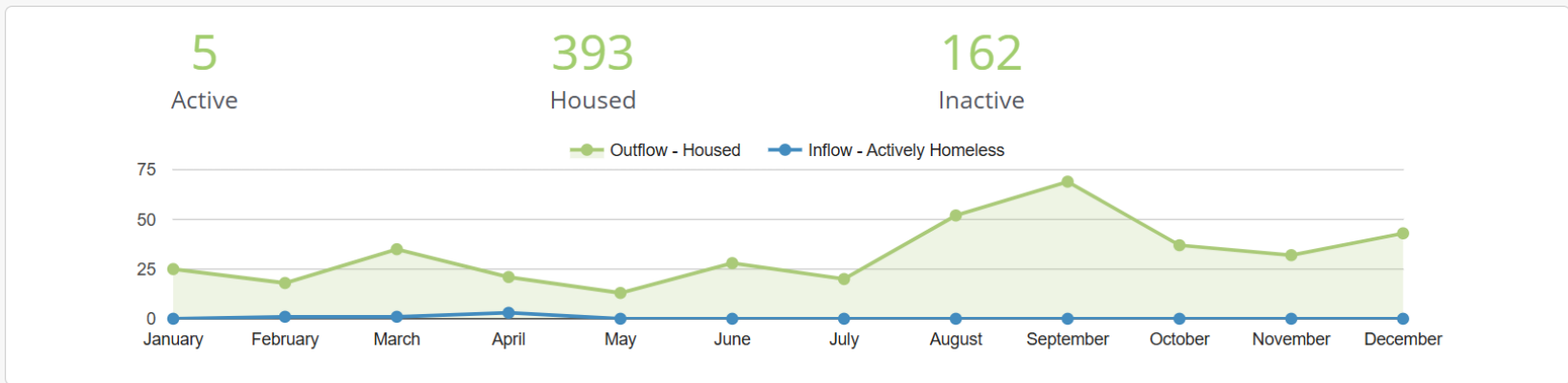


Continuous monitoring is undertaken to ensure data accuracy and maintain real-time awareness of homelessness and people's inflow and outflow status



We use this data to prioritize clients who may be eligible for our Mental Health program, Rent Supplements, The Canadian Ontario Housing Benefit, access to our Transitional Unit Program, Special Priority Program etc.

By Name List Data



Encampment Response Strategy

Responses are grounded through a human rights lens and trauma-informed practice and avoid punitive or enforcement-led approaches.

Staff work relationship building and pathways to permanent housing through Progressive Engagement

Work is relational, not transactional; strategic, not symbolic; and focused on exits, not removals nor enforcement

Progressive Engagement is an approach that starts with the least intensive services and scales up based on participant needs and preferences.

A regular and consistent schedule so encampment residents know when to expect support, to build trust and relationships.



Encampment Tracking

Encampments

+ Add Encampment

Search

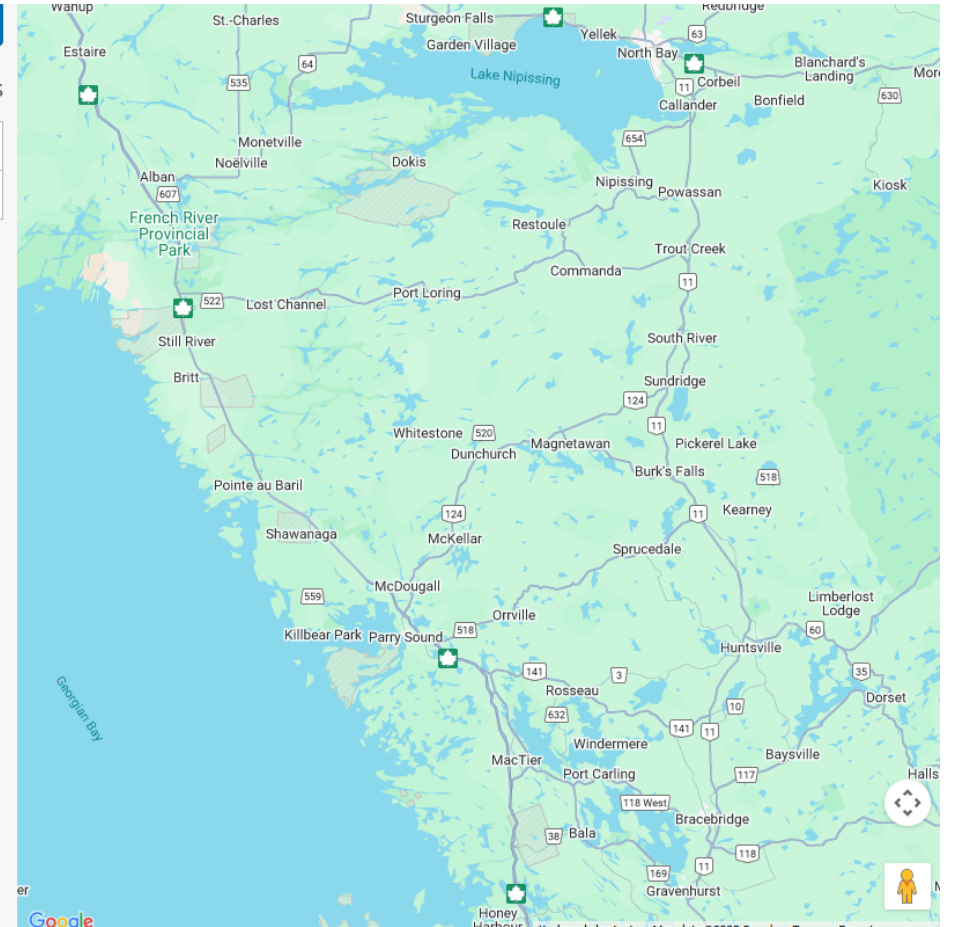


Active

Inactive

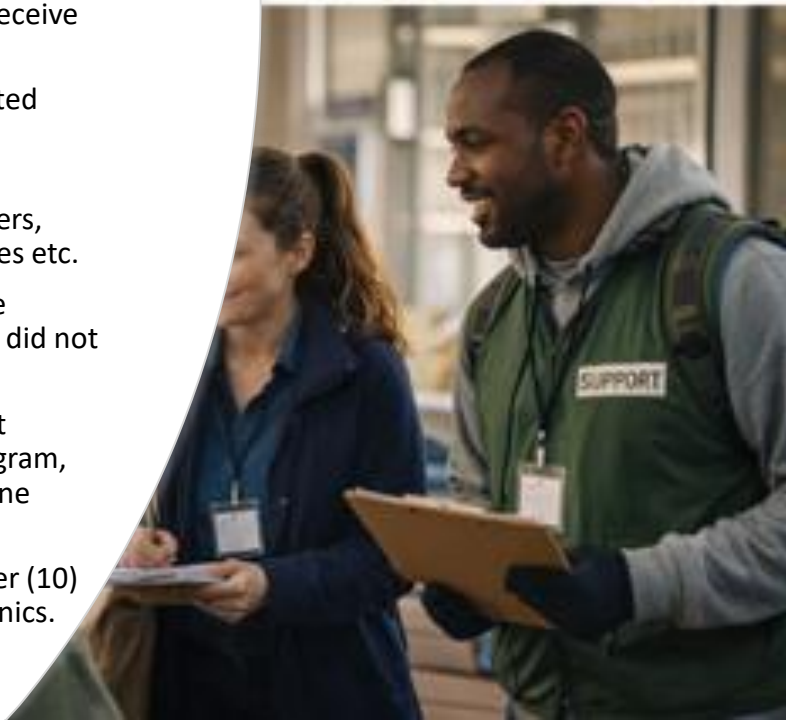
[Advanced Search](#) 0 Results

Encampment	Encampment Type	Number of Shelters	Number of Residents	Last Updated Date
No results				



Community Engagement and Messaging

- Focus on getting the message out about what Housing Loss prevention work looks like in the District of Parry Sound. This strategy is a strength-based and data focused public communication
- Housing Loss prevention works best when people know that help exists **BEFORE** they receive evictions and or utility shut offs.
- Meeting people where they are at – trusted spaces and home visits.
- Regular outreach and office visits at Employment Ontario Sites, Community Centers, Municipal offices, healthcare settings, libraries etc.
- Community Connection Clinics across the District to connect people with services they did not know existed.
- Supports provided – Health Care Connect Applications, Ontario Electricity Support Program, Canada Dental Care Plan, Income Taxes, Online applications for assistance.
- Community Clinics Completed: September (10) October (11) November (12) – Total of 33 Clinics.



What do you do if you encounter someone experiencing homelessness

Scan for programs & how to access help



Supporting Stability through Transitional Housing

Update September 30, 2025



District of Parry Sound
Social Services
Administration Board

www.psdssab.org

Homelessness Prevention Update

January 31, 2026

7

Active on the By-Name List

The By-Name List is a real-time list of people in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

1

Chronically Homeless

Experiencing homelessness for at least 6 months, or reoccurring for 18 months over the last 3 years

382

Total Housed

Since the establishment of the By-Name List in 2021

34

Total # at risk supported (Month of January)

Homelessness prevention includes a range of evidence-informed policies and interventions aimed at stopping housing loss before it occurs

298

Total # at risk supported

Year to Date - since April 1, 2025

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Example of Communication Strategy on Social Media



