

Housing Continuum: Information Regarding Shelters and Affordable Housing Inventory in Saskatoon

ISSUE

This report provides information regarding the existing emergency shelters in operation in Saskatoon with regards to their capacity, clientele and funding sources. In addition, information is provided regarding the affordable housing inventory in Saskatoon, as compiled by the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) in July 2021. This information is provided as a component of the response to the motion outlined below.

BACKGROUND

At the April 12, 2022 Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services meeting, Councillor Gough made the following motion:

"That the Administration provide an update report to the appropriate Committee or Council regarding the state of the Housing Continuum in Saskatoon as background to ongoing discussions relating to the City's support of related services and strategic partnerships. This report should include:

- Background information about the housing continuum in Saskatoon; including definitions of key terms and concepts (i.e. transitional housing, wrap-around supports, etc.) and models of local housing services
- Updates relating to housing and sheltering availability across the continuum
- Updates relating to known pressures across the continuum and any trends in the funding or other sources of those pressures
- Connection to existing and planned City strategies and working groups with Civic involvement/support."

This report responds to the first and second bullets of the motion.

CURRENT STATUS

Emergency Shelters in Saskatoon

Currently there are six facilities operating as emergency shelters in Saskatoon, including the Temporary Emergency Residential Shelter operated by Saskatoon Tribal Council. Each facility is operated by a separate organization and has their own operating and funding models. Appendix 1 provides a high-level summary of these facilities.

Affordable Housing Inventory

In 2020, SHIP undertook a process to compile information related to the affordable housing inventory throughout Saskatoon, producing the report, Affordable Housing Inventory and Needs, July 2021, to document the findings (see Appendix 2). The report compiles information for all known Affordable Housing providers regarding their number

of units, sizes, accessibility of the units, rent structure, rent levels, target groups and wait list information. This effort was a comprehensive inventory with information up to December 31, 2020.

The inventory documents approximately 4,500 units of affordable housing in Saskatoon. Known wait lists from housing providers were also included; however, the report cautions that because waitlists across all of the organizations are not integrated, one individual or family may be on multiple wait lists. Other variables also affect the usefulness of wait lists for accurate planning and estimating of units needed in Saskatoon. However, in a broad sense, the report indicates the current and recent annual construction rates of affordable housing are neither keeping up with population growth, population aging and changing housing needs, nor the need for replacement of aging housing units.

Key Terms, Concepts and Housing Providers

Appendix 3 provides a glossary of key terms and concepts, while Appendix 4 provides a list of local affordable housing providers and their focus.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

This information is provided to support current discussions regarding shelters and emerging discussions related to the City of Saskatoon's role in housing.

With respect to shelter capacity and operations, Administration does not have a direct role in monitoring any aspects of this in Saskatoon. Therefore, additional details related to these operations are not available without engaging directly with the organizations themselves. Administration has not undertaken such engagement to date.

Administration has not actively monitored housing availability among Affordable Housing providers. Therefore, the SHIP report documents the conditions as of December 31, 2020 and would represent a recent comprehensive review.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, communications, Triple Bottom Line, policy, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations emerging from this report.

NEXT STEPS

Additional reporting will be forthcoming to respond to the remaining elements of the noted motion, as well as to support the discussions regarding the service contract with Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership. Anticipated reports, coming to the Standing Policy Committee on Planning Development and Community Services, are as follows:

- Housing Continuum – Related Strategies and Working Groups – June
- City of Saskatoon - Current Role in Housing – June
- Proposed New Service Contract with Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership – August
- Potential Roles and Responsibilities for the City of Saskatoon in Housing – August
- Housing Continuum – Pressures and Funding Trends – Timing TBD

APPENDICES

1. Summary of Existing Shelters in Saskatoon
2. Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership Affordable Housing Inventory and Needs Report, June 2021
3. Key Terms and Concepts
4. Saskatoon Affordable Housing Providers

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Lesley Anderson, Director of Planning and Development
Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, General Manager, Community Services

SP/2022/PD/Council/Housing Continuum: Information Regarding Shelters and Affordable Housing Inventory in Saskatoon/gs