

# YIMBY CAMP AGAIN



# YES IN MY BACKYARD

# Say YES IN MY BACKYARD

## *What we're doing to Be Part of the Solution.*

There are three main ways to address homelessness:

- 1. Prevention:** Stopping people from becoming homeless in the first place.
- 2. Emergency Response:** Providing emergency supports like temporary shelter, food, and day programs, while someone is experiencing homelessness.
- 3. Housing, Accommodation, and Supports:** Providing housing and ongoing supports to move people out of homelessness for good.

The County of Lanark is working with many other local groups and organizations to prevent and address homelessness in our community. Here's how:

### The Homeless Response Team

The Homeless Response Team are specially trained staff who work directly with people in crisis. These caring professionals help connect people who are homeless, or who are at risk of becoming homeless, with the various services and supports they require such as a safe place to sleep, food, warm clothing, access to healthcare services, and more.

### Emergency Sheltering and Transitional Housing

The County of Lanark partners with multiple organizations to provide emergency sheltering for those in crisis as well subsidized Adult Supportive Housing (ASH) beds.

### By-Name List

The By-Name List allows individuals in crisis to self-identify and communicate their unique needs to those who can help. Through this information collection process, staff become better aware of who and how many people in our community need supportive services.

Learn more at: <https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/family-and-social-services/byname-list.aspx>

### Coordinated Action System

Utilizing the data collected from the By-Name List, County of Lanark staff lead the Lanark County Homelessness Coordinated Access System. This system ensures that local organizations can better work together to effectively address the specific needs of those experiencing homelessness within the community. The County of Lanark has achieved a Quality By-Name List from the *Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness*.

### Communications

There are many myths and falsehoods about homelessness. The County of Lanark's By-Name List Committee makes sure that people in Lanark County have access to facts, data, and learning resources that help with understanding. They also ensure that the community is well informed on the various activities and programs designed to prevent and address homelessness in their community.

To learn more visit: <https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/family-and-social-services/homelessness.aspx>



## Prevention Programs

The County of Lanark runs many programs that are designed to prevent people from becoming homeless, such as the Housing Assistance Program (HAP). Other programs include owning and operating 764 rent-geared-to-income apartment units, as well as a variety of programs for both landlords and tenants.

## Financial Support

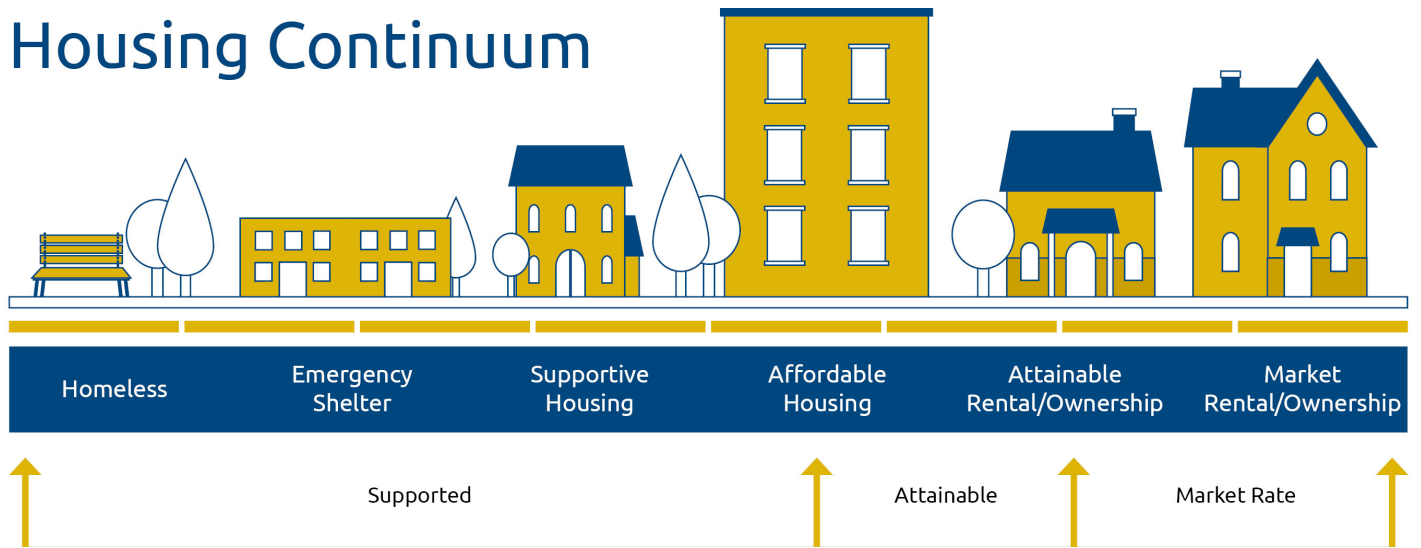
Sometimes the best way to stop a person from becoming homeless is to support them with funds that help them pay for the things they need so that they can continue to afford to live in their current home. The County of Lanark works with other levels of government to deliver financial aid programs, such as housing allowances, rent supplements, Ontario Works, and the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit.

## Housing Developments

The County of Lanark is increasing its affordable housing inventory through the development of several new affordable housing developments.



# Housing Continuum



It's easy to confuse the various terms associated with supported, affordable, and attainable housing. While each of these terms addresses a unique aspect of the Housing Continuum, it is important to note their distinctions:

- Homelessness refers to individuals who are sleeping rough, couch surfing, accessing emergency shelter, or utilizing temporary transitional housing.
- Supported Housing is housing that includes wrap-around supports such as meals, health services, mental health and addiction supports, life skills, and more.
- Affordable Housing, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), housing is Affordable when a household spends less than 30% of its pre-tax income on adequate shelter.
- Attainable Housing is adequate housing that can be afforded by people earning around the Area Median Income (AMI).
- Market Housing is housing available for rent or purchase at price determined by the market.

## Addressing the Housing Continuum in Lanark County

The County of Lanark's Social Services, Planning & Development, and Economic Development departments are working alongside many community partners to address housing needs across the entire housing continuum. It is important to ensure that housing is available at all points on the housing continuum so that everyone in Lanark County has access to safe and affordable housing.

## Affordable Housing Crisis

According to CMHC, housing affordability has reached crisis levels in Ontario. Home prices and rents have increased while rental vacancy rates are extremely low. Restoring housing affordability will require more housing construction. Affordable housing can include housing in private, public, and non-profit sectors—not only subsidized housing.

The County of Lanark continues to work with its many partners and stakeholders to increase the availability of affordable housing in the community. We're taking a variety of actions to address housing needs across the entire housing continuum. It is important to ensure that housing is available at all points on the continuum so that everyone in Lanark County has access to safe and affordable housing.

Learn more about the actions being taken to address the Housing Continuum:

<https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/family-and-social-services/10-year-housing-and-homelessness-plan.aspx>

## Fundamental Right to Housing

The County of Lanark is dedicated to enhancing the social and economic well-being of Lanark County through the creation and preservation of affordable housing. The County supports an individual's fundamental right to housing without discrimination as protected under Ontario's Human Rights Code.

**To learn more:**

<https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/family-and-social-services/homelessness.aspx>

# YES IN MY BACKYARD

## 5 ways you can support

### 1. Become informed and don't spread false information.

There are many myths and falsehoods around the topic of homelessness and how people can become homeless. Learning more about homelessness and housing instability can help increase understanding. Explore the resources found at the end of this booklet for more information.

### 2. Speak up! Advocate for those experiencing homelessness, hurt and hunger in your community.

Sadly, people facing homelessness are often subject to various forms of discrimination. Poverty, physical and mental health, and substance use concerns are not reasons to deny a person's fundamental right to housing without discrimination as protected under Ontario's Human Rights Code. If you hear inflammatory language or witness discriminatory actions, speak up! Advocate for those in the community who may be more vulnerable. If you're unsure if a statement is valid or discriminatory, try taking the cringe test, found on <https://www.lanarkcounty.ca/en/family-and-social-services/homelessness.aspx>

### 3. Welcome Supportive and Affordable Housing in your community.

To Be Part of the Solution it is essential to welcome affordable housing developments in your own neighbourhood. It takes an entire community, including multiple levels of government, many stakeholders, neighbourhoods, and the public to create a welcoming atmosphere for housing that improves life for everyone in our community.

### 4. Consider donating locally.

Consider donating to a local agency that's meaningful to you and supports our community's most vulnerable citizens, such as emergency shelters, food banks, clothing drop offs, and more.

### 5. Participate in local events that support vulnerable people.

Events like The Coldest Night of the Year for Cornerstone Landing Youth Services, or reach out to the local foodbanks are a great ways to get involved. The Coldest Night of the Year is a fun, family-friendly fundraising walk that supports local non-profit partners who provide essential care and service for Youth experiencing homelessness, hurt, and hunger.



# MYTH BUSTERS

**THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF STIGMA AND MISINFORMATION SURROUNDING ISSUES OF HOMELESSNESS. YOU CAN JOIN THE YIMBY CAMPAIGN AND BE PART OF THE SOLUTION BY BECOMING INFORMED AND NOT PERPETUATING FALSE CLAIMS.**

**MYTH: PEOPLE CHOOSE TO BE HOMELESS**

**FACT:** A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT FACTORS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO AN INDIVIDUAL'S EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS. OFTEN, PEOPLE EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS WHEN ALL OTHER OPTIONS HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED, AND/OR THEY ARE DEALING WITH CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN HOUSING.

**MYTH: PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ARE LAZY**

**FACT:** IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, MANY PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS ARE CONSTANTLY IN SEARCH FOR THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE, SUCH AS FOOD, SHELTER AND A SOURCE OF INCOME. THEREFORE, DUE TO THE BARRIERS THAT THEY FACE, MANY PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS DO NOT HAVE THE OPTION OF BEING STAGNANT OR LAZY.

**MYTH: ALL PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS ARE ADDICTS**

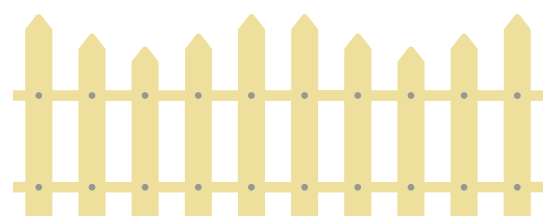
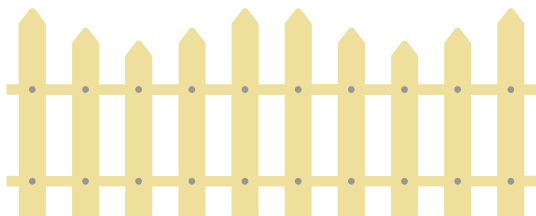
**FACT:** MANY PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS DO NOT STRUGGLE WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROBLEMS. JUST LIKE IN THE GENERAL POPULATION, ONLY A PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS DEAL WITH SUBSTANCE USE. PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS MAY DEAL WITH OTHER COMPLEXITIES RELATED TO THEIR EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS, INCLUDING TRAUMA AND MENTAL ILLNESS, FOR EXAMPLE.

**MYTH: PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SHOULD JUST FIND A JOB**

**FACT:** THERE ARE ALREADY PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHO ARE EMPLOYED; HOWEVER, IT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND A JOB WHILE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHALLENGES, SUCH AS: LACKING A PERMANENT ADDRESS, NOT HAVING REGULAR ACCESS TO SHOWERS, BARRIERS TO TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES LIKE MENTAL ILLNESS, MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT. EVEN WHEN INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS FIND JOBS, THEY ARE OFTEN PART-TIME OR MINIMUM WAGE POSITIONS. THIS WORK FAILS TO ADEQUATELY MEET THEIR NEEDS, DUE TO EXPENSIVE HOUSING COSTS.

**MYTH: THERE ARE MANY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO HELP THOSE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

**FACT:** MANY OF THE SOLUTIONS AND SUPPORTS FOR HOMELESSNESS HAVE FOCUSED ON EMERGENCY SERVICES, SUCH AS SHELTERS AND FOOD BANKS. FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE TRYING TO ESCAPE A CYCLE OF POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS, EMERGENCY SERVICES ALONE ARE NOT ADEQUATE. THERE IS A NEED TO FOCUS ON THE LARGER SYSTEMIC FACTORS, INCLUDING THE LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF HOMELESSNESS THAT PREVENT PEOPLE FROM OBTAINING PERMANENT AND SUITABLE SHELTER.





# Is it discrimination? Take the cringe test.

The Cringe Test is a tool you can use to tell the difference between discrimination and a legitimate objection to supportive housing. If it sounds wrong when you say the same thing about a racial, ethnic or religious minority, then you know you've heard a discriminatory statement and this statement may go against the Ontario Human Rights Code.

## **Would you say?**

This neighbourhood already has its fair share of people on welfare.

The homeless should be placed only on arterial roads.

This neighbourhood is just not suitable for vulnerable mentally ill people.

Welfare recipients lower property values and drain public services.

Houses for people with disabilities must be separated by 245 meters.

We deserve to be warned before people with mental illness move onto our street.

We are placing a moratorium on housing for low-income people while we study the impact on the area.

## **...If it makes you cringe to say?**

This neighbourhood already has its fair share of Italians.

Australians should be placed only on arterial roads.

This neighbourhood is just not suitable for vulnerable left handed people.

Senior citizens lower property values and drain public services.

Houses for Catholics must be separated by 245 meters.

We deserve to be warned before gays and lesbians move onto our street.

We are placing a moratorium on housing for Greeks while we study the impact on the area.

SOURCE: PIVOT EQUALITY LIFTS EVERYONE

LEARN MORE ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AT THE ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: [WWW.OHRC.ON.CA](http://WWW.OHRC.ON.CA)