

The Regional Municipality of Durham  
Durham Advisory Committee on Homelessness

COVID-19 Homelessness Response Network  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

1. Welcome and Attendance
  - a. Please make sure you write your name and organization in the chat function of the WebEx to ensure your participation is recorded.
2. Updates from Homelessness Initiatives Team
  - a. COVID-19 Emergency Shelter Response
    - i. Shelter operator updates
    - ii. Hotel isolation updates
      - Entire floor of hotel has been pre-booked (18 rooms)
      - Formal process established with shelter operators and Public Health
      - Food services being provided by shelter operators – there is a need to look to redeploy this function as the need increases
    - iii. Camp Samac facility update
      - Discussion on use of space for expansion of shelter system
      - Continued discussion on staffing resources for this site
    - iv. Next steps
  - b. COVID-19 Unsheltered Response
    - i. Centralized locations for washroom/shower facility update
    - ii. Next steps
  - c. COVID-19 Relief Response
    - i. Planned increase for Housing Stability Program to accommodate increased need in rental/utility arrears
    - ii. Next steps
  - d. PPE for homelessness support providers
    - i. Provide more details when ordering it from Stephanie
      - Item description required such as size of gloves, type of masks, etc.
      - Quantity of items requested to be included in order
      - Must note that not all items ordered will be filled. Supplies received will be based on availability.
3. Funding
  - a. CHPI funding: \$2.83M
    - i. A portion of this funding is being used to secure hotel spaces for isolation measures, ensure washroom and shower facilities are

available for unsheltered residents, support the expansion of the emergency shelter system, etc.

- b. Reaching Home funding: \$1.86M
    - i. A portion of this funding is being used to obtain PPE for homelessness support providers, secure hotel spaces for isolation measures, etc.
  - c. Community Response Fund: to make funds available to non-profit organizations in Durham Region supporting homeless residents during COVID-19.
4. Agency Updates
- a. What is working and not working
  - b. Unmet needs and strategies moving forward
  - c. Collaborative efforts and opportunities: Does anyone have anything that they can provide to help the homelessness support system?
5. Next Meeting
- a. Meetings will be scheduled every Monday from 1:00pm-3:00pm
  - b. Send any agenda items to [Alyxandra.Riddell@durham.ca](mailto:Alyxandra.Riddell@durham.ca) by end of day Thursday to be added to the following Monday's agenda