

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING UMBRELLA GROUP 2010

REPORT CARD

Everyone has a role to play in ending homelessness and promoting housing stability in Waterloo Region – all levels of government, non-profit groups, the private sector and community members. This report card and its accompanying booklet have been created by the Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group to bring awareness to the issues of homelessness and housing in Waterloo Region.

Housing stability is characterized by safe, affordable and long term residency. Housing stability requires the following factors to be in place:

- The **housing** must be safe, accessible, adequately maintained, of suitable size, affordable, provide security of tenure and be considered acceptable by the individual.
- People must have enough **income** to sustain the minimum standards for rent, utilities, food, health, clothing, education, transportation and recreation.
- People must have the opportunity to access additional **support**, as needed, to help them live as independently as desired and to connect to others in meaningful ways.



As housing stability increases, the risk of homelessness decreases.

The 2010 report card booklet highlights the importance of adequate rental housing. A glossary of terms and an explanation of the data can be found on the Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group website at www.hhug.ca. This report card grades how we as a community have addressed housing stability by comparing 2009 data to 2008 data.

ABSOLUTE HOMELESSNESS

C

- 7% increase in emergency shelter bed nights
- Slight increase in number of people using the shelter system
- 7% decrease in the number of people returning to shelters within one year

RENTAL HOUSING COST AND INCOME

B

- Significant increase in minimum wage, modest increase to OW and ODSP shelter rates
- Increases in average market rents (AMR) were equal to rate of inflation for 1, 2, 3+ bedroom units
- Significant increase in AMR for bachelor units

RENTAL HOUSING AVAILABILITY

B-

- Increase in vacancy rate
- Decrease in waiting list for Community Housing
- Increase in the number of Community Housing units kept pace with population growth, private market rent units lagging behind

SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN HOUSING

B-

- No change in actual number of units with support
- Significant decrease in number of people waiting for housing with specific support
- Significant increase in waiting list for housing with non-specific support

OVERALL HOUSING STABILITY GRADE

B-

- SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT
- Significant increases offset by some decreases

Our Grades: **A** = Significant Improvement
D = Some Worsening

B = Some Improvement
F = Significant Worsening

C = No Improvement

The **Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG)** is a non-partisan group consisting of concerned individuals, agencies and groups committed to preventing and reducing homelessness in Waterloo Region.



Homelessness &
Housing Umbrella Group

		2007	2008	2009
Absolute Homelessness				
C	• Number of emergency shelter bed nights	65,475	63,277	68,017
	• Number of people served by emergency shelters	2,831	2,783	2,797
	• Percentage of emergency shelter residents returning for shelter			
	• Returning within the same year	24%	27%	20%
	• Returning in more than one calendar year over the past five years	26%	27%	27%
Rental Housing Cost and Income (Affordability)				
B	• Average Market Rent			
	• bachelor	\$548	\$561	\$584
	• one bedroom	\$690	\$712	\$722
	• two bedrooms	\$829	\$845	\$856
	• three or more bedrooms	\$940	\$978	\$990
	• Average Housing Wage			
	• bachelor	\$10.54	\$10.78	\$11.33
	• one bedroom	\$13.27	\$13.69	\$13.88
	• two bedrooms	\$15.94	\$16.25	\$16.46
	• three or more bedrooms	\$18.07	\$18.81	\$19.04
	• Minimum Wage	\$8.00	\$8.75	\$9.50
	• Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Works (OW)	\$342	\$349	\$356
	• Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	\$436	\$445	\$454
• Number of Rent Bank loans	244	260	346	
Rental Housing Availability				
B-	• Number of households on Community Housing Waiting List	3,043	3,100	3,015
	• one bedroom	1,658	1,660	1,531
	• two bedrooms	583	593	558
	• three or more bedrooms	802	847	926
	• Number of Community Housing units (completed)	9,791	9,978	10,034
	• Vacancy rate	2.7%	1.8%	3.3%
	• Number of private market rent units	31,122	31,183	31,205
Support to Maintain Housing				
B-	• Number of housing spaces with support	1,427	1,473	1,453*
	• Number of households waiting for long term support to maintain housing	1,170	1,176	1,153
	• non-specific	576	518	608
	• developmental disability	162	162	140
	• physical disability/acquired brain injury	153	149	108
	• mental health	279	347	297
	* This represents no actual loss of beds but rather a change in way the spaces are counted.			
OVERALL HOUSING STABILITY GRADE				
B-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight Improvement • Significant increases offset by some decreases 			

Our Grades: **A** = Significant Improvement **B** = Some Improvement **C** = No Improvement
D = Some Worsening **F** = Significant Worsening

For more information or to download a copy of the Report Card, the Report Card Booklet or the Glossary, please visit our website at www.hhug.ca.