Update on Niagara's Homelessness Strategy

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Canadian Definition of Homelessness

- Homelessness describes the situation of an individual, family or community without stable, safe, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.

- It is the result of systemic or societal barriers, a lack of affordable and appropriate housing, the individual/household's financial, mental, cognitive, behavioural or physical challenges, and/or racism and discrimination.

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Canadian Definition of Homelessness (Continued)

- Most people do not choose to be homeless and the experience is generally negative, unpleasant, unhealthy, unsafe, stressful and distressing.

- Gaetz, S.; Barr, C.; Friesen, A.; Harris, B.; Hill, C.; Kovacs-Burns, K.; Pauly, B.; Pearce, B.; Turner, A.; Marsolais, A. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

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Homeless Services

In its role as Service Manager the Niagara Region is tasked by the province to:

- Prevent people from becoming homeless

- Support people who are homeless to return to housing

Factors Impacting Tenancies

- Physical Health Needs

- Mental Health Needs

- Addictions

- Brain Injury

- Developmental Disability

- Poverty

- Violence Against Women and Children

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How Do We Measure Success?

- Fewer people are experiencing homelessness

- Fewer people are chronically (long term) homeless

- More people are returning to housing each month than are becoming homeless

- More people at risk of losing housing stay housed

- More people are returning to housing

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Coordinated Access

Coordinated access helps people access the services they need.

- Why is this important?

- How do we achieve this?

- Some current actions.

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Housing Focused Shelters

Housing Focused Shelters are not just a place to stay but a place where supporting a person's safe exit from shelter to housing is the goal from day one.

- Why is this important?

- How do we achieve this?

- Some current actions.

Assertive Street Outreach

Assertive Street Outreach helps keep unsheltered individuals healthy and safe while they work to find housing.

- Why is this important?

- How do we achieve this?

- Some current actions.

Homelessness Prevention & Diversion

Homelessness Prevention and Diversion keep people at risk of becoming homeless in safe and stable homes instead of emergency shelters or unsheltered homelessness.

- Why is this important?

- How do we achieve this?

- Some current actions.

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Supportive Housing

Supportive Housing helps people with complex needs achieve and maintain independent living in stable, long-term housing with essential support services.

- Why is this important?

- How do we achieve this?

- Some current actions.

Community Housing

Community Housing provides individuals and families who struggle to find suitable homes in the private market with affordable and stable options.

- Why is this important?

- How do we achieve this?

- Some current actions

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Attainable Housing

Attainable Housing provides households with average incomes with housing that meets their budget so that they don't need affordable housing units.

- Why is this important?

- How do we achieve this?

- Some current actions.

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Partnerships with other Sectors

Partnerships with other sectors ensure people have the supports they need beyond just homelessness services.

• Why is this important?

• How do we achieve this?

• Some current actions.

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System Capacity Building

Building System Capacity ensures that homelessness services provide professional and high-quality care.

- Why is this important?

- How do we achieve this?

- Some current actions.

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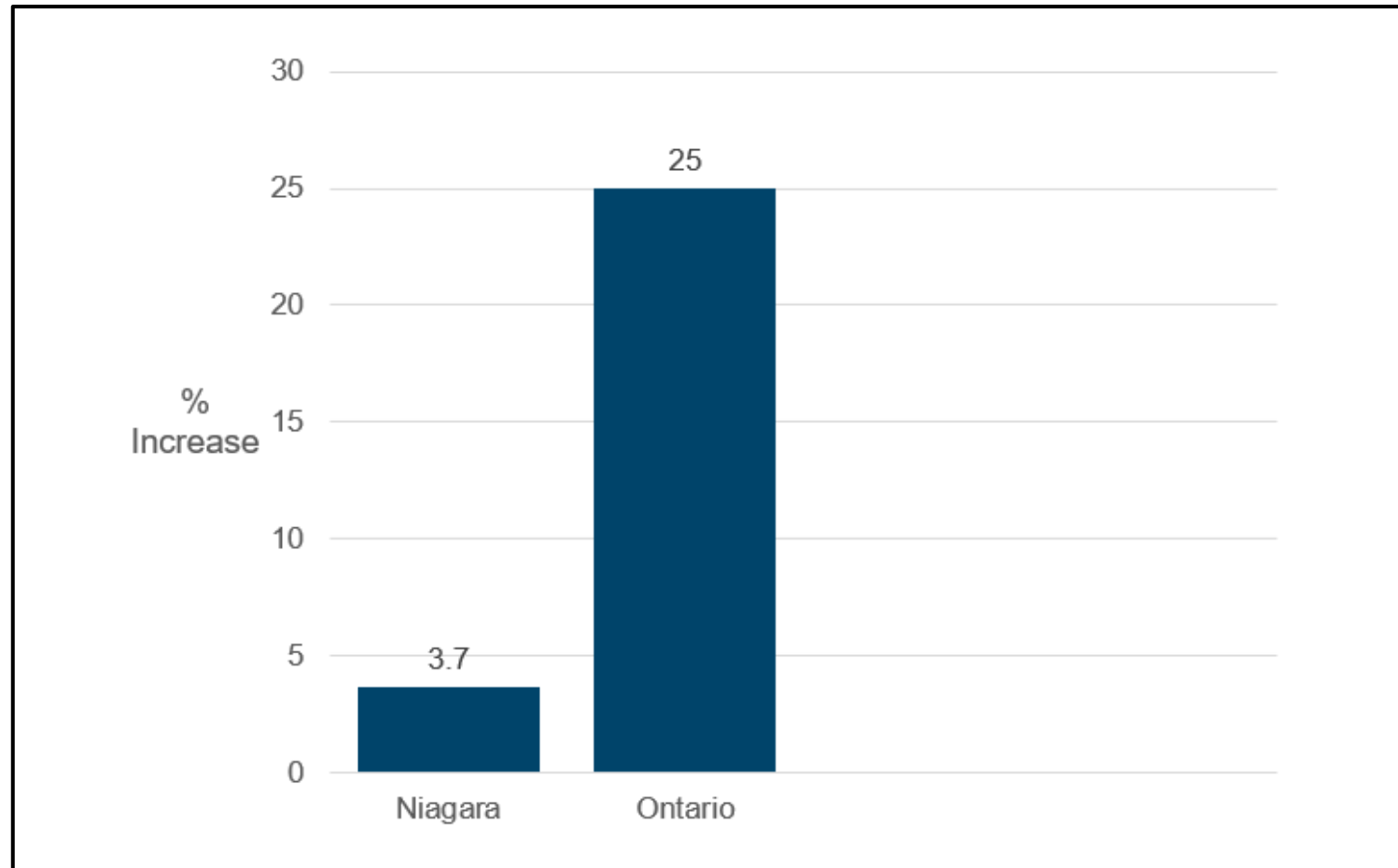# How We Are Addressing Homelessness

- Coordinated Access
- Housing Focused Shelters
- Assertive Street Outreach
- Prevention and Diversion
- Supportive Housing

- Community Housing
- Attainable Housing
- Partnerships with Other Sectors
- System Capacity Building

Homeless Services Housing Outcomes

Time Period	Number of Individuals Rehoused
2022 (Entire Year)	1028
2024 (Entire Year)	1261
2025 (Year to Date)	597
Rehoused from Shelter	340
Rehoused from Unsheltered or Encampment	36

Niagara Homeless Increase Compared to Ontario (2022-2024)

Questions?

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