

## ***Hamilton Housing Help Centre is part of a provincial network of housing support services.***

### **What is Housing Help?**

Housing Help Services assist people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to find and keep affordable and appropriate housing. Housing Help Services consider housing stability to be as important as assisting with finding housing. So, Housing Help is both homelessness prevention and poverty reduction work. When someone's housing is not stable, all aspects of life are affected, including living in poverty.

### **What specific assistance do Housing Help services offer?**

Housing Help Services offer three primary supports to people who are at risk of homelessness in their communities across Ontario.

#### **(1) Housing Help Services offer support to Find Housing, Keep Housing and Prevent Eviction**

Housing Access - assisting people in need of housing with subsidized housing applications, market-rent housing searches, crisis intervention, and resources for moving.

Housing Stabilization – providing a wide range of follow-up to support someone to stay in their home. This work includes community and housing orientation, referral, ongoing housing stability monitoring

Eviction Prevention – providing information and education on landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities, mediation with landlords, and referral to community legal clinics

#### **(2) Housing Help Services assist with Income Support to reduce poverty and homelessness**

Housing Help Services include Income Support Fund Assistance with applications for OW, ODSP, CPP, OAS, Rent Bank Loans and Utility Grants; assistance & advocacy; money management skills coaching; referral to community and provincial Trusteeship programs and personal income tax preparation and filing.

#### **(3) Housing Help Services support people to access community services in their neighbourhoods**

Housing Help workers support people to learn about their new neighbourhood, and the supports they can find there, such as I.D. Clinics, employment programs, food banks, childcare, counseling services, drop-ins, support groups, settlement services in other languages, inexpensive grocery stores, thrift stores, and community centres.

### **What other services work in partnership with Housing Help?**

Key partners of Housing Help Services are:

Housing Providers – subsidized and supportive housing; private landlords and emergency shelters.  
Income Supports – Municipal, Provincial and Federal Income Support Programs, Trusteeship Programs, Employment & Training Centres, Community Economic Development Initiatives.  
Legal Services - community legal clinics, tenant organizations, family and other legal support services  
Health Services - public health, community health centres, hospitals, mental health programs.  
Family Support Services - child protection agencies, childcare and services for youth and family support  
Settlement Services – for Immigrants and Refugees

### **Where are Housing Help services located?**

Housing Help Services are located in rural and urban centres of all sizes throughout the province of Ontario in a variety of settings, including outreach and drop-in programs, shelters, multi-service agencies and housing help centres.

## **Who uses Housing Help services?**

Anyone can use Housing Help Services because many people in Ontario are at risk of housing instability. Working families, seniors, single parents, and youth can all have economic circumstances which could put them at risk of losing their housing. In addition, there are groups of people for whom maintaining housing is even more difficult, and who require additional supports to find and keep housing. When Ontario residents start spending more than 50% of their income on shelter, they are at risk of homelessness.

For more information about Housing Help services:

Contact

The Housing Help Association of Ontario (HHAO)

[hhao@housingworkers.ca](mailto:hhao@housingworkers.ca)

416-686-3390 X 9972

To find a Housing Help service in your area or more information about the HHAO, visit our new provincial Housing Help website at [www.findhousinghelp.ca](http://www.findhousinghelp.ca)