



# LONDON FOR ALL

## A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY



## Homelessness Prevention & Housing

### 4.2 Engage landlords in keeping more people housed

#### **Landlord Engagement Toolkit:**

#### **A Guide to Working with Landlords in Housing First Program**

This toolkit was developed in collaboration with a diverse group of stakeholders from 24 different organizations from communities across Canada. It is meant to be a practical “how to” guide to working with landlords in the context of a Housing First program. It will help program providers build effective, lasting relationships with landlords.

Although many aspects of the toolkit will apply to a wide range of programs, the toolkit will focus on programs that offer participants a rent supplement in scattered site housing in the private rental market.

This toolkit presents a set of ideas, approaches and resources that program providers may choose from and adapt to their own practice. (see attached)

#### **RentSmart Ontario Training**

A consortium of five agencies providing housing services in Niagara came together to deliver the RentSmart curriculum to all Ontarians, an interactive education and support program designed to increase housing stability through successful tenancies for both tenant and landlord across the province.

The Region of Niagara supported a pilot program which was the first of its kind in Ontario and provided the potential to lead the provincial rollout of the program model and initiate the development of a RentSmart Ontario training and support network. RentSmart Ontario is part of a national initiative led by Rent Smart Education and Support Society. RentSmart Ontario provides education and support to tenants and landlords with the goal of successful tenancies.

RentSmart training is now being provided in the City of London in partnership with the London Property Management Association (LPMA) and London Middlesex Community Housing (LMCH) to educate tenants and landlords.

### **London Cares Homeless Response Services**

Housing Selection Workers identify private-market landlords and property groups interested in making apartments available to individuals experiencing homelessness. By participating in this program, landlords are supported by the Housing Selection Workers to ensure 24/7 response is available to the tenant, landlord and extended community.

**CMHA Middlesex Housing First program** – employs a housing selection worker whose role is to engage landlords. CMHA Middlesex is also participating in a 3-year pilot project – NO FIXED ADDRESS – finding housing for individuals on the psychiatric floors who would otherwise be discharged from LHSC or Parkwood to homelessness.

***Help Yourself Through Hard Times*** is a guide to basic needs services for London and Middlesex County. It lists services that provide assistance to individuals and families on limited incomes during times of financial hardship. The booklet is updated once a year, and is available for download, or in print form from the City of London or at many social service locations in London.

### **The London Homeless Coalition (LHC)**

The London Homeless Coalition (LHC) exists to advise, shape and coordinate community responses to homelessness, and related needs to the London area. The LHC is an open network of individuals interested in the issue of homelessness in London, Ontario. Anyone may attend and participate in Homeless Coalition meetings. The Coalition is led by a Steering Committee, which is an annually elected body, to which anyone can self-nominate.

The London Homeless Coalition has 5 priority focus areas including:

Affordable Housing Crisis – to include the following actions:

- Supporting measures that tangibly reduce poverty
- Building relationships with landlords
- Defining what 'affordable' housing is