

LONDON FOR ALL

A ROADMAP TO END POVERTY

Homelessness Prevention & Housing

4.5 Implement strategies that support housing youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU)

The YOU Emergency Youth Shelter follows Housing First principles to ensure that all youth get what they need urgently – a safe place to sleep, eat and shower. Youth have access to trained staff who support them in accessing services to find long-term stable housing and address the underlying causes of homelessness.

The YOU Emergency Youth Shelter gives YOU staff the opportunity to meet youth who need help sooner, meeting their immediate needs and providing a safe and supportive environment as YOU helps youth access housing, education, health care, employment and more.

YOU has Supportive Housing Facilitators to provide support to youth in ways such as:

- Assist with housing searches
- Provide application support for onsite housing programs
- Connect youth with other available housing supports
- Provide basic housing items and hygiene products
- Assist youth to moving towards independence

City of London provided \$2.2 M to build and operate a housing first emergency shelter for youth and an additional \$500K annually to operate – provide life skills

CMHA operates a transitional shared living program for youth offering a moderate level of support. CMHA also operates an 8 unit transitional supportive apartment program for youth.

Project Home is a housing stability/housing first program which is rooted in the City of London, Homeless Prevention System. Project Home focuses on housing and supporting adults and youth who have experienced chronic and persistent homelessness. A team of support workers help individuals to exit homelessness by assisting them to find housing across the city of London, anchoring them in their community of choice, and establishing a sense of belonging through the provision of assertive and intensive housing first case management. Project Home is guided by the principles of London's Homeless Prevention System and housing first philosophy.

Youth for Christ – Downtown Hub

The Downtown Hub exists to be a consistent resource meeting the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of at-risk youth in London. The Downtown Hub creates safe spaces for at-risk youth to find community (YFC London youth centre, churches, coffee shops). These safe spaces are staffed by a team of dedicated outreach workers, placement students, and volunteers. The goal is to provide a safe and consistent place for at-risk youth (16-25 years) to come to receive food, basic needs, support, advocacy, and a sense of community.

Youth for Christ –Streetlight Mobile Youth Centre

Streetlight aims to meet the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of at-risk youth in London. The goal is to provide a safe space for at-risk youth (16-26 years) to receive food, basic needs, advocacy and a sense of community. Streetlight journeys with youth as they seek housing stability, mental health and wellness support, addiction treatments, deal with legal issues, and ongoing family/parenting support. Opportunities for life skills and employment development are also provided by the staff and volunteers.

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:

Youth Homelessness and Prevention – to include the following actions:

- Advocating for housing opportunities
- Awareness and education for the community
- Supporting member organizations through transition time
- Addressing the youth to adult service cliff