



Frequently Asked Questions

Updated October 30, 2024

County of Simcoe Providing Rapid Rehousing in the City of Barrie

What is the Supportive Rapid Rehousing Program (SRRP)?

This temporary program is designed to assist individuals, previously identified as situationally homeless, to transition into permanent housing within 180 days. It is a supportive environment that provides full services in addition to housing and support to individuals in need and assists them in securing permanent housing quickly. The SRRP in Barrie will be designed for seniors (55+) who are preparing for permanent housing.

Who will live in these units?

This will be a program designed for seniors (55+) who are situationally homeless. These are individuals who have found themselves living unhoused due to a recent life event (as an example, a recent job loss) but are ready to transition back into permanent housing. The program will house between 10 and 15 people at a time with comprehensive, 24/7 on-site services, staffed with trained agency professionals.

What type of services are provided to people through the SRRP?

People who live in the SRRP units are supported in all aspects of the move-in process, including unit viewings, reviewing leases, furnishing apartments, and establishing connections with on-going follow up supports. During the housing period, residents receive full services based on their needs, including mental health, addiction, and employment supports. Individuals are further supported by an intensive six-month post-placement component to increase their success.

Who will run the program?

The County will be contracting a qualified service provider to operate this program on their behalf. The selected provider(s) will be required to provide comprehensive 24/7 on-site services, staffed with trained agency professionals.

Is this an emergency shelter?

No. This temporary program is designed to assist individuals, previously identified as situationally homeless, to transition into permanent housing within 180 days. It is a supportive environment that provides full services.

Will people be living there permanently? How long will the temporary structure be in place?

No. The goal of this program is to transition seniors into their permanent housing within 180 days. The modular facility that you will see installed will be a temporary one, and is not a long-term, permanent structure. The County anticipates that it will be placed at the site for up to five years.

Where will the temporary structure be located? Where is it coming from?

The County of Simcoe has recently purchased building and land at **445 Blake Street**, located at the corner of Blake Street and Penetanguishene Road (the site formerly occupied by Coates Fine Cars) in the City of Barrie for the purpose of ensuring that we are able to continue serving the diverse needs of residents of Barrie through Social and Community Services.

This will be the new location of the County's existing modular structure, which will be moved over the coming weeks from its current location on Rose Street in Barrie.

How many people will be helped through this SRRP in Barrie?

Once the facility has been placed and an operator has been contracted, this program will support approximately 14 participants within the first six months of the project and up to 50 participants within the first year, which could amount to 140 participants over the project's five-year duration.

Do you have any experience with a similar program in the past? How well has it worked?

A similar temporary structure has been successfully utilized by the County in the City of Barrie on Rose Street. While being operated as a transitional housing program, the initiative in Barrie led to 18 clients (90% of the participants) moving to permanent housing in a limited period, which is the ultimate goal of the program. The County also recently opened a youth-based SRRP program embedded in the City of Orillia and a seniors-based SRRP program in the Town of Collingwood.

Why is this program needed? Don't we have shelters for this?

This initiative in Barrie is expected to create space in the region's existing shelter system, as the two programs work together to move people from situational homelessness to permanent housing through a system-wide approach.

I've heard rumours about the possibility that this could be the location of a HART Hub. Is this true?

The County and various local agencies and organizations have submitted an application to the Province to operate a HART Hub in the City of Barrie. It is important to note that the location for this property has not yet been confirmed and it is possible that the supports and services offered through a potential HART Hub program may not all occur at one location. Any future use of our Blake St. site in this regard, beyond the modular

building, and possible warming centre, will be communicated to you, if our HART Hub application is successful. Please reference the [Provincial site](#) for further information.

It can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/homelessness-and-addiction-recovery-treatment-hart-hubs-client-journey>

How do I find out more about the SRRP program?

For information on the temporary SRRP housing, visit simcoe.ca/SRRP

Project Contact Details:

County of Simcoe's Community Services department
CommunityServicesDepartment@simcoe.ca
(705) 722-3132, extension 1470.

Dispelling common myths

Myth: Property values will go down.

Reality: Many studies on affordable housing conclude that there is no impact on property values.¹ One study done in Toronto found that, “there was no evidence that the existence of the supportive housing buildings studied has negatively affected either property values or crime rates in the neighbourhood. Property values have increased and crime decreased in the period considered by the study.”²

Myth: Crime will increase.

Reality: A Canadian study of 146 supportive housing sites concluded that “there was no statistically significant evidence that supportive housing led to increased rates of reported violent, property, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct or total crimes.”³ In fact, future occupants of new affordable housing often already live in the neighbourhood.

¹ Ontario HomeComing Coalition, *Yes, In My Backyard – A Guide for Ontario Supportive Housing Providers*, 2005, p. 27

² de Wolff, Alice. *We are Neighbours: The Impact of Supportive Housing on Community, Social, Economic, and Attitude Changes*, 2008, Wellesley Institute, p.iv.

³ George Galster, Kathryn Pettit, Anna Santiago, and Peter Tatian, *The Impact of Supportive Housing on Neighbourhood Crime Rates*, 2002.