



**Committee Matters: SCM 9/2022**

**Subject: Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy - City Wide**

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie  
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 175**

THAT the report of the Coordinator of Housing Administration & Policy dated October 28, 2021 entitled "Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy – City Wide" **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the Corporation of the City of Windsor **REQUEST** the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to provide further financial support to extend funding for rent supplement/housing allowance programs and include reference to impacts of the sunseting of rent supplement and housing allowance programs including specific data points; and,

THAT the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) **BE REQUESTED** to quantify these impacts province-wide; and,

THAT the resolution **BE FORWARDED** to Windsor and Essex County Members of Parliament (MPs), Windsor and Essex County Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Premier of Ontario; and further,

THAT, should the sunseting of the rent supplement and housing allowance programs proceed, the impacts **BE REPORTED** to Council prior to the March 31, 2022 deadline along with options to mitigate those impacts.

Carried.

Report Number: S 144/2021  
Clerk's File: GH/14271

**Clerk's Note:**

1. The recommendation of the Standing Committee and Administration are **not** the same.
2. Please refer to Item 8.2 from the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting held January 5, 2022.

3. To view the stream of this Standing Committee meeting, please refer to:  
<http://csg001-harmony.sliq.net/00310/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20220110/-1/6296>

**Subject: Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy - City Wide**

**Reference:**

Date to Council: January 5, 2022  
Author: Jolayne Susko  
Coordinator, Housing Administration & Policy  
Housing Services  
(519) 255-5200 ext. 6278  
jsusko@citywindsor.ca  
Housing and Children's Services  
Report Date: 10/28/2021  
Clerk's File #: GH/14271

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

**Recommendation:**

**THAT** the report of the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services dated January 5, 2022, regarding the Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy, **BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION**; and,

**THAT** the Corporation of the City of Windsor **REQUEST** the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to provide further financial support to extend funding for rent supplement/housing allowance programs; and,

**THAT** the resolution **BE FORWARDED** to Windsor and Essex County Members of Parliament (MPs), Windsor and Essex County Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA).

**Executive Summary:**

N/A

**Background:**

The City of Windsor is the Service Manager with respect to Social and Affordable Housing for the City of Windsor and the County of Essex. The City administers a number of affordable housing programs funded municipally, as well as provincially and federally, including Rent Supplement (RS) and Housing Allowance (HA) Programs.

These programs provide rental assistance to low-income households living in private rental accommodations, and in social and affordable housing units in Windsor and

Essex County. A portion of these programs are municipally funded through a shared contribution agreement between the City of Windsor (as Service Manager) and the County of Essex since the devolution of social housing in 2001. In addition, the federal and provincial governments have provided RS/HA funding under time-limited housing program funding envelopes such as, Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH and IAH-E), Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI).

Starting in 2007 with the announcement of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (COAHP), senior levels of government provided funding for a number of affordable housing programs including RS/HA programs. The City of Windsor as Service Manager welcomed the funding and the opportunity to deliver an increased number of affordable housing options to households based on program funding guidelines and parameters. At the time of the launch of COAHP and subsequent programs, rental market vacancy rates in Windsor and Essex County were high and the rate of participation by landlords who were willing to participate in these programs was also high.

Since the original start of the COAHP program, the City has received funding extensions for RS/HA programs as well as the introduction of new affordable housing funding programs which have allowed the City as Service Manager to continue funding existing RS/HA households and add additional RS/HA households as additional time-limited funding envelopes were introduced.

RS/HA(s) have not only benefited low-income households but have also assisted social and/or affordable housing landlords with their housing project's financial viability by providing RS/HA(s) to a specific number of qualifying tenants.

The following describe the two RS/HA program delivery models offered:

- **Entitlement-based programs** offer rent supplement to any individual or household who meets the eligibility criteria. The following are examples of entitlement rent supplement programs offered in Windsor-Essex County: Commercial rent supplements, Strong Community Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP), and the Windsor Essex Housing Benefit (WEHB) whereby the participants are offered a benefit based on their household's priority ranking on the Central Housing Registry Windsor Essex (CHR-WEC) coordinated access wait list. Entitlement-based rent supplements count towards our legislated Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) service levels.
- **Rationed-based programs** are programs where the rent supplement administrator is authorized through a service agreement to offer a set number of rent supplements to distribute based on a fixed funding allocation. The following are examples of rationed-based rent supplement programs offered in Windsor-Essex County: Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH), Investment in Affordable Housing Program Extension (IAH-E), Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF-IAHE) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI). Unlike the entitlement-based programs, rationed-based RS/HA programs do not count towards Windsor Essex's legislated service levels.

## Discussion:

Windsor Essex has offered RS/HA programs in the community as a means of expanding affordable housing options in our community for years. As of November 2021, approximately \$3.29 million has been allocated to RS/HA assisting on a monthly basis approximately 500-549 households throughout Windsor and Essex County.

The funding programs for RS/HA(s) have been long standing and considered quasi-permanent funding by recipients, their Program Administrators and the community support agency, ALSO, Windsor Community Living, Essex Community Living, Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports, as examples. The City's Housing Services department does not have the financial means to fund these losses through its existing social housing budget without replacement funding from upper levels of government and/or budget adjustments from the City of Windsor and/or the County of Essex.

Housing Services is currently working with RS/HA Program Administrators on a rent supplement expiry mitigation strategy. RS/HA Administrators are currently working with their RS/HA households with a March 31, 2022 expiry to assist them in securing an alternate housing benefit, such as the Canadian Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB), the Windsor Essex Housing Benefit (WEHB), or Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) housing units understanding each program has their own unique eligibility requirements, subsidy calculations and application process.

In Windsor and Essex County many residents are able to live independently but struggle to access appropriate and affordable housing. As with many other Ontario communities, Windsor-Essex is experiencing increasing rents and decreasing supply of affordable housing options. With a waiting list of over 5,000 households for social and affordable housing, the demand for affordable rental housing exceeds the supply for all municipalities in the Windsor Essex service area. As indicated in the Council approved Home Together: Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Master Plan, there is a sizable gap between the need for affordable housing and the supply of affordable housing. Additionally, as of November 2021, there were 463 known households experiencing some form of homelessness in Windsor Essex, of which 338 have experienced chronic or long-term homelessness. Any programs that expand affordable housing options are needed to increase the supply of affordable rental housing in the region. Many households seeking affordable housing are paying well over 50% of their household income on their housing, which over the long-term is not sustainable, placing households at risk for homelessness. Current program guidelines and legislative regulations identify that housing costs should be in the range of 30% of a households' average monthly income.

As noted within our Council approved Home Together: Windsor Essex Housing and Homelessness Master Plan 2019-2028, the affordable housing gap for Windsor-Essex County was estimated to be 10,000 units in 2019, and by 2028 was projected to increase to 12,900 units. It is expected that the loss of expiring RS/HA(s) as well as the changes in the housing market since the completion of the 2019-28 Housing and Homelessness Master Plan will further impact the need for affordable housing in Windsor-Essex County into the future.

The following is a summary of the RS/HA Programs the City is currently delivering, the number of units, funding, populations served and their program expiry date:

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Populations Served</b>	<b>Expiry Date</b>	<b>No. of Households</b> (at September 2021)	<b>Approx. Annual Subsidy</b>
Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)	In crisis, homeless, persons with disabilities, seniors, survivors of domestic violence, working poor	Mar-31-2022	82	\$ 460,000
Strong Communities Rent Supplement (SCRSP)	persons with disabilities, seniors, working poor	Mar-31-2023	195	\$ 1,164,000
Investment in Affordable Housing (Ext) (IAHE)	In crisis, homeless, seniors, survivors of domestic violence, working poor	Mar-31-2024	203	\$ 1,400,000
IAHE – Social Infrastructure Funding (SIF)	seniors, youth	Mar-31-2024	48	\$ 190,000
SIF – Anti-Human Trafficking (SIF-AHT)	Survivors of human trafficking	Mar-31-2024	17	\$ 111,000
Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI – HA) (yearly allocation)	Homeless and/or at-risk-of-homelessness	Mar-31-2022	6	\$ 30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>551</b>	<b>\$ 3,355,000</b>

In 2019, the Canada-Ontario Housing Renewal Program (COHRP) was introduced and significantly changed the way funding allocations were delivered by upper levels of government, moving from a multi-year funding approach to a year-by-year funding approach. The year-by-year funding approach makes offering long-term RS/HA(s) challenging. There is no guarantee the funding allocation in subsequent years will be sufficient to cover the subsidy/allowances and if offered, recipients would have an expiry date of the following year. The inability to carry funding over in the following year makes the introduction of a RS/HA program extremely challenging as it does not provide households affordable housing security as there is no guarantee there will be enough funds to support a RS/HA beyond the year they are allocated in.

This revised funding model makes a RS/HA program difficult to administer and is a disincentive for implementing a RS/HA program as it is likely RS/HA administrators

would be in a perpetual state of mitigating the damages associated with RS/HA households losing their RS/HA due to funding shortfalls. There are other municipalities in Ontario that do not offer rent supplements through the COHRP due to these program constraints. Furthermore, other social and affordable housing priorities such as capital building projects and repairs (urgent, health and safety and other repairs), are competing for dollars from the same annual funding allocation (Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative/Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative; COCHI/OPHI).

The City of Windsor as the Service Manager for Windsor and Essex County has advocated for funding extensions or long-term sustainable replacement RS/HA funding at the 2021 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Forum and through participation on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) Strong Communities Rent Supplement Technical Table. An extension of these rent supplements or a permanent replacement funding stream would allow us to continue to assist households in Windsor and Essex County with their housing affordability and extend the continuum of affordable housing supply options available. No announcements for funding extensions or replacements have been made at this time.

The changes in the housing market are also having an impact on our RS/HA households, especially for new tenancy households added in 2021. As noted in the data presented to the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee over the last couple years, Windsor Essex is seeing significant increases in residential market rents when assisting new households with their housing affordability and therefore, the funding allocations are absorbed more quickly with less households assisted. The following table shows the differences in the average monthly RS/HA per unit in September 2019, in July 2021 and the monthly average per unit cost to add a new RS/HA tenancy in 2021:

Program Name	Current Average Monthly RS/HA per unit		
	Program avg. monthly RS/HA per unit Sept 2019	Program avg. monthly RS/HA per unit July 2021	Avg. monthly cost per unit to add RS/HA 2021
Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)	\$400	\$445	\$550
Strong Communities Rent Supplement (SCRSP)	\$439	\$498	\$900
Investment in Affordable Housing (Ext) (IAHE)	\$475	\$568	\$800-900
IAHE – Social Infrastructure Funding (SIF)	\$265	\$357	\$785
SIF – Anti-Human Trafficking (SIF-AHT)	\$531	\$542	\$700
Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI – HA) (yearly)	N/A	\$435	N/A

allocation)			
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In a letter to Mayor Dilkens dated August 23, 2021, MMAH communicated 2022-23 planned funding allocations for Windsor-Essex County, noting all funding amounts are for planning purposes only and are subject to confirmation through the province's annual budget planning process. Allocations for the National Housing Strategy (NHS) programs – COCHI; OPHI; COHB – are subject to agreement with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on NHS Bilateral Agreement amendments. The following table highlights our planned funding allocations for 2022-23:

<b>2022-23 Fiscal Year Planned Funding Allocations – City of Windsor Program</b>	<b>Allocation Amount</b>
Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)	\$2,426,040
Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)	\$2,225,200
Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)	\$1,228,600
Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP)**	\$1,118,391

**Notes:** \*\* Please note that the Ministry continues to evaluate SCRSP. The City has been informed that Ministry staff will communicate updates to Service Managers regarding a potential extension of this program as they become available.

The COCHI and OPHI planned funding allocations above represent Windsor Essex's total funding for all available social and affordable housing projects, which include Capital supply and unit repairs, Housing Support Services, Homeownership Assistance, as well as Rent Supplement and Housing Allowance programs.

The above funding announcement differs from our first National Housing Strategy funding allocation notification which presented a three year funding allocation of COCHI and OPHI funding (April 2019-March 2022), providing more of an opportunity to plan forward and address social and affordable housing priorities. Although administration was expecting a 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3 year COCHI OPHI funding allocation, the above noted planning allocation is for a single year. Housing Services' funding allocation for 2022-23 and future rounds of COCHI OPHI funding are not expected to have the ability to offset the effects of the expiring funding envelopes (IAHE/SIF/AHT). It must also be noted that a portion of the this new COCHI and OPHI funding allocation has been pre-committed to fund 40 RS units for the Meadowbrook Development (CHC) at an estimated cost of \$240,000 per year.

Further to the above and in an effort to address a Ministry social housing service level standard issue, the City of Windsor committed \$250,000 per year in 2020 (B# 2020-0230), 2021 (B# 2021-0107) and 2022 (B# 2022-0035) to deliver a made in Windsor - Windsor Essex Housing Benefit (WEHB) program. The WEHB is expected to offer a



mitigation option to offset the 2022 RS/HA losses but will not have the funding capacity to offset the 2023 and 2024 scheduled RS/HA funding losses.

In an effort to maximize MMAH RS/HA funding expiring March 31, 2022 (approx. 82 households/annual subsidy \$460,000), the delivery of Housing Services 2021 WEHB allocation has been paused. The unused 2021 funding will be applied to transition eligible households with 2022 expiring RS/HA(s) into an alternate housing benefit program.

### ***Mitigation Strategy***

The City of Windsor as Service Manager is actively working with our rent supplement administrators with a March 31, 2022 program expiry. All participants have been notified in writing and advised on required action(s) in order to be considered for an alternate benefit such as a Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB), Windsor Essex Housing Benefit (WEHB) or Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) unit. Each participant must be on, and/or eligible to be on, the CHR-WEC's centralized waitlist to be considered eligible for these three alternate housing subsidy options. All expiring rent supplement participants have been offered Priority II status on the CHR-WEC's centralized waitlist and the participant's date of application will go back to their original application date; understanding RGI units and the WEHB must be offered from the centralized waitlist in order of priority. Rent supplement administrators are actively working with each household to assess the value of each alternate housing option so households are able to make an informed choice with the goal of transitioning them to an alternate housing benefit on or before April 1, 2022.

Active mitigation efforts as noted above will begin in January 2022 for RS/HA(s) slated to expire in March of 2023, and in January 2023 for RS/HA(s) slated to expire in March of 2024.

Housing Services will continue to advocate for replacement and additional funding from senior levels of government to replace these expiring programs. Further updates will be provided to the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee, the Community Advisory Board and to Council as Housing Services continues to work through our mitigation efforts.

### **Risk Analysis:**

There is a critical risk to RS/HA households linked to an expiring RS/HA funding agreement requiring immediate, significant, and ongoing action to mitigate the negative effect the loss of these subsidies will have on housing affordability for these households, which may result in evictions and ultimately homelessness for some of these households. Ongoing efforts with RS/HA households with an expiring RS/HA will need to be made to assist them in navigating and applying for a replacement housing benefit, understanding a replacement benefit may not provide the same level of subsidy as their expiring housing subsidy/allowance. There is also significant risk there may not be a replacement subsidy available for all households experiencing this loss as future funding allocations are unknown and/or may not meet the demand. Furthermore, the

loss of RS/HA funding will have an impact on our ability to assist new households in Windsor-Essex seeking assistance with their affordable housing need.

The Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services will continue to advocate for replacement funding at Ministry forums and tables and continue to support expiring RS/HA mitigation efforts.

## **Climate Change Risks**

### **Climate Change Mitigation:**

N/A

### **Climate Change Adaptation:**

N/A

## **Financial Matters:**

The City of Windsor, as Service Manager for Windsor-Essex, is responsible for delivering a number of Rent Supplement/Housing Allowance programs in the service area. As noted above, certain Entitlement-based programs are funded by the service manager and cost-shared through arbitrated agreement with the County of Essex. Funding allocations to operate and administer these programs form part of the Housing Services ongoing yearly operating budgets. These entitlement based RS/HA units form part of the legislated service level requirements under the Housing Services Act (HSA).

This report pertains to ration-based RS/HA units administered by the City under additional RS/HA programs funded by senior levels of government with defined terms and expiry dates. These programs, by expiry date and the potential budget effect, are as follows:

**Expiry - March 31, 2022**

**Program: Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)**

**Funding Allocation: \$ 6.45 million; Period: 2011 – 2022**

**Current Take-up: 82 units; Yearly Subsidy: \$ 460,000/year**

As noted earlier in this report, Program Administrators are actively working with all affected tenancies to find an alternate housing subsidy program to assist in mitigating March 31, 2022 expiring agreements. Housing Services and RS/HA Administrators are doing their best to move these RS/HA tenancies to another rent assistance program effective April 1, 2022 under the COHB, WEHB and or RGI units in social housing properties.

It is anticipated that a large number of the 2022 expiries will choose to transition to WEHB. As a mitigation effort, Housing Services paused the allocation of the WEHB program in 2021, and will be requesting a 2021 budget carry-over to 2022 for any unspent 2021 budget funding to offset the expected cost to mitigate RS/HA agreements expiring March 31, 2022. Housing Services was approved an additional base budget

increase in WEHB funding (B# 2022-0035) in the approved 2022 City Operating budget. With the approval of this budget issue, it is not anticipated that there will be any additional 2022 cost to the City/County as a result of the IAH program expiry at March 31, 2022.

**Expiry - March 31, 2023**

**Program: Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program (SCRSP)**

**Funding Allocation: \$ 1.118 million / year**

**Current Take-up: 195 units; Yearly Subsidy: \$ 1.164 million/year**

This Provincial program has operated under various names since social housing's devolution in 2001. As such, it has been a quasi-permanent funding program for households receiving housing support. Funding of \$ 1.118 million per year has been consistent for last number of years, and this program funds close to 200 households on a monthly basis. This funding has been dedicated, in part, to fund supportive housing units/tenancies supported by local community agencies and will be difficult to replace. At this time, despite lobbying to the Province, MMAH has not made any announcements to extend this program. Should the City/County choose to consider funding this program loss, based on current costs an estimated additional \$1.164 million per year (\$753,000 City) in municipal funding would be needed.

**Expiry – March 31, 2024**

**Program: Investment in Affordable Housing Extension (IAHE)**

**Funding Allocation: \$ 8.02 million; Period: 2015 – 2024**

**Current Take-up: 203 units; Yearly Subsidy: \$ 1.4 million/year**

**Program: Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF-IAHE)**

**Funding Allocation: \$ 1.0 million; Period: 2016 – 2024**

**Current Take-up: 48 units; Yearly Subsidy: \$ 190,000/year**

**Program: Social Infrastructure Fund – Anti Human Trafficking (SIF/IAHE/AHT)**

**Funding Allocation: \$ 568,000; Period: 2018 – 2024**

**Current Take-up: 17 units; Yearly Subsidy: \$ 111,000/year**

The programs expiring March 31, 2024 are being delivered as extension/companion programs to the Provincial funded IAH program and assist specific populations with their affordable housing needs. Should the Service Manager choose to consider funding programs expiring March 31, 2024, the municipal cost is estimated to be \$1.7 million yearly (\$1.1 million City).

### **Consultations:**

Mike Deimling, Social Housing Analyst

Nancy Jaekel, Financial Planning Administrator

## Conclusion:

The current demand for affordable rental housing exceeds the supply for all municipalities in the Windsor Essex service area. The expiry of RS/HA funding envelopes over the course of the next three years has the potential to increase affordable housing demand, evictions, and homelessness by approximately 500 RS/HA households which are currently in receipt of an expiring rent supplement. Every effort must be made to advocate for appropriate long-term replacement funding from upper levels of government. Housing Services and program administrators will continue the mitigating strategy efforts to find these households a replacement affordable housing benefit but at this time, the demand exceeds the available funding.

## Planning Act Matters:

N/A

## Approvals:

Name	Title
Jolayne Susko	Coordinator, Housing Admin & Policy
Debbie Cercone	Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services
Debbie Cercone for Jelena Payne	Commissioner Human and Health Services
Joe Mancina	Commissioner, Corporate Services CFO/City Treasurer
Steve Vlachodimos	City Clerk
Jason Reynar	Chief Administrative Officer

## Notifications:

Name	Address	Email
Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee (HHAC; Clerks to send)		
Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation		<a href="mailto:jsteele@wechc.com">jsteele@wechc.com</a>
Housing Information Systems		<a href="mailto:angelidis@lscdg.com">angelidis@lscdg.com</a>
Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario		<a href="mailto:RalphGanter@alsogroup.org">RalphGanter@alsogroup.org</a>
Windsor Homes Coalition		<a href="mailto:angela@wfhcp.com">angela@wfhcp.com</a>

Name	Address	Email
Mariner's Co-operative Housing Development		<a href="mailto:marinerscoop@outlook.com">marinerscoop@outlook.com</a>
Frank Long Co-op		<a href="mailto:FrankLong@cogeco.net">FrankLong@cogeco.net</a>
Ryegate Co-op Homes		<a href="mailto:ryegate@bellnet.ca">ryegate@bellnet.ca</a>
T.W. Development Corporation		<a href="mailto:mderikx@sympatico.ca">mderikx@sympatico.ca</a>
WeFIGHT		<a href="mailto:gilberts@lao.on.ca">gilberts@lao.on.ca</a>
PCCWA		<a href="mailto:margaret.pccaow@cogeco.net">margaret.pccaow@cogeco.net</a>
Family Services Windsor Essex		<a href="mailto:izuk@fswe.ca">izuk@fswe.ca</a>
Community Living Windsor		<a href="mailto:melodie@clwindsor.org">melodie@clwindsor.org</a>
Community Living Essex		<a href="mailto:karen@communitylivingessex.org">karen@communitylivingessex.org</a>
Windsor Essex Brokerage for Personal Supports		<a href="mailto:colleen@webps.ca">colleen@webps.ca</a>
House of Sophrosyne		<a href="mailto:karen.waddell@sophrosyne.ca">karen.waddell@sophrosyne.ca</a>
County of Essex; CAO County of Essex		<a href="mailto:mgalloway@countyofessex.ca">mgalloway@countyofessex.ca</a>

## Appendices:



**Windsor City Council:**

I am writing to express concern on behalf of the staff and consumers of Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario (ALSO) over agenda item 8.2 – Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy.

ALSO administers subsidies to approximately 80 households under the expiring Strong Communities Rent Supplement Programs 1&2. Recipients of these subsidies are people with Disabilities in receipt of Ministry of Health funded supports. Of these 80 households, 24 live in ALSO Supportive Housing units where they receive daily, specialized support. For many of these individuals the loss of these subsidies means relocation to Long Term Care, or hospital services.

Further, with loss of this funding, ALSO will lose a subsidy resource for our entire consumer base at a group home for men with acquired brain injuries, a group home for women with complex Disabilities, and a Supportive Housing site in Amherstburg for all genders with complex Disabilities. Such a significant loss holds the potential not only to impact our consumers, but our staff who rely on Disabled people living outside of institutions in order to maintain their employment.

As an organization, we are considering mitigation strategies pre-emptively (including the possibility of the provision of comparable subsidies should they be available), however, such subsidies are currently unavailable and/or were insufficient for community demand (even before the loss of the rent supplement subsidy programs). Hence, we cannot place our confidence in their availability at this time.

Further, Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario is a very unique organization; there is no comparable level of specialized support available in Windsor-Essex. If our Supportive Housing consumers are forced to relocate to mitigate the impacts of this loss, they will lose out on the specialized support that they require to remain living independently and will almost certainly require institutionalization. The effectiveness and flexibility of our program depends on consumer proximity to Supportive Housing sites, and if consumers cannot afford to live at the Supportive Housing site, they will fail to receive the effective, flexible care that they require.

For the remaining people on the program who are not living in Supportive Housing sites but still require support for daily living, they will be at significantly increased risk of homelessness and/or institutionalization as the shelter system in Windsor Essex is not equipped for people with Disabilities, and many personal support providers will not provide care within our shelter system.

Finally, an internal analysis of rental units available in Windsor-Essex was undertaken in 2020, with results showing that throughout September-April 2020, there were zero fully accessible units

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519-969-8188 [www.alsogroup.org](http://www.alsogroup.org)



available on the private market, and only 45% of available units had a barrier free entrance. Of those 45% of units, under 20% met the affordability criteria for our subsidy programs, meaning they will most certainly be out of reach for those without subsidy assistance. The only affordable relocation options for our clients will be RGI housing, or rooms for rent which are typically very inaccessible.

In conclusion, the loss of these subsidies would create a true crisis for the Disabled community of Windsor-Essex and the staff who work tirelessly to support them. This, when our community is already struggling to adapt and thrive through the current COVID-19 Pandemic. Thank you for your consideration of our position and we would be happy to provide any information that you require in order help provide greater detail of our organization's experiences as well as to better quantify the impact.

We look forward to your response on this matter and, as always, we offer to work together with you to create an equitable solution in advance of March 31, 2023.

Sincerely,

Ralph Ganter, Executive Director  
Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario