



Community Services

2026 Budget Presentation

COUNTYOFESSEX.CA

Community Services



- Residential Services Homes (RSH) Program
 - subsidized residential care placements for vulnerable adults
- Essex County Homelessness Programs
 - Essex County Homelessness Hub (ECH2)
 - County Outreach Worker
 - County Emergency Shelter Program
 - Warming Center / Overnight Program
- Building Bridges Erie Shores
 - Operational funding to support twelve (12) affordable housing units for youth and other vulnerable populations.

RSH Program Challenges

- Evolving client base with complex needs
- Demand for services increasing
- Regional transportation
- Lack of capacity in existing homes, very little room for contingency planning
- Recruitment and retention challenges
- Inflation resulting in extreme financial pressures

County Homelessness Programs

- Essex County Homelessness Hub (ECH2)
 - January 1 to October 30, 2025
 - 4,864 total visits
 - 45 people housed
- Warming Centre
 - December 9, 2024 to March 31, 2025
 - 935 total visits
- Overnight Program
 - July 21 to October 31, 2025
 - 1,545 total visits

County Homelessness Programs

- **County Outreach Services**
 - January 1 to October 31, 2025
 - 997 total visits
 - 102 unique individuals served
- **Encampments**
 - May 1 to October 31, 2025 (4 encampments)
 - Total of 22 individuals
 - 3 encampments remain active

County Homelessness Programs

- County Emergency Shelter Program
 - January 1 to October 31, 2025
 - 28 individuals served
 - 2 Motel rooms (additional rooms added when needed)
 - For families or individuals who work in the Leamington area
 - Food cards or meals provided

Homelessness Programs Challenges



- Insufficient funding from upper levels of government to meet regional needs
- Significant increase in persons experiencing homelessness regionally
- Growing number of encampments
- Lack of deeply affordable housing

Budget Summary



| Community Services | 2025 Budget | 2025 Projection | 2026 Budget |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Expenditures | \$4,562,380 | \$4,813,050 | \$3,733,330 |
| Recoveries | (2,799,700) | (3,057,450) | (2,532,600) |
| Net Operations | \$1,762,680 | \$1,755,600 | \$1,200,730 |
| Contributions to (from) Reserves | (1,000,000) | (1,000,000) | 0 |
| County Responsibility | \$762,680 | \$755,600 | \$1,200,730 |

2026 Initiatives

- Includes funding to maintain the Overnight Program until December 31, 2026
- Includes per diem increase to address significant financial pressures with RSH providers to maintain current service levels
- Throughout 2026 Administration will report to Council regarding the RAHS, but with any initiatives requiring more than nominal amounts being discussed as part of 2027 and subsequent budget years

Next Steps

- Continue to foster collaboration between the Residential Services Homes, Homelessness Programs and healthcare services
- Continue provision of homelessness services in the County
- Advocacy to upper levels of government to increase funding for homelessness services and affordable housing

Success Story

- Lucy's journey



Questions?

C O U N T Y O F E S S E X . C A
