



To: County Council

Re: Letter of Support for Continued Funding of the Essex County Homelessness Hub (ECH2) Overnight Program

Dear County Council Members,

On behalf of the **THRIVE Network in Leamington**—a coalition of faith leaders, community advocates, and local service providers—we are writing to express our strong support for the continued funding of the **Essex County Homelessness Hub (ECH2) overnight program**, operated by **Family Services Windsor-Essex (FSWE)**.

As community partners deeply involved in supporting vulnerable residents, we see every day how essential this program is for individuals experiencing homelessness in Leamington and the surrounding areas. Operating nightly from **10:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.**, the ECH2 overnight program provides more than a place to sleep—it offers **safety, stability, and connection to vital support services**. Staff at the hub work directly with individuals to link them to **housing assistance, mental health supports, addictions services, and other resources**, ensuring continuity of care both day and night.

The program has served **over 20 individuals a night**, demonstrating both the urgent need for these services and the trust the community places in ECH2. In Leamington—where options for those experiencing homelessness are limited—this overnight program is quite literally a lifeline. Without it, individuals would be left to face unsafe conditions, increased health risks, and greater barriers to securing stable housing.

In addition to its humanitarian importance, the continuation of this service strengthens the broader community by reducing reliance on emergency services, improving coordination among local providers, and contributing to a more effective county-wide response to homelessness.

For these reasons, the THRIVE Network respectfully urges County Councillors to **maintain and continue funding for the ECH2 overnight program**. Its impact is indispensable, and its absence would be deeply felt across our community.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

The THRIVE Network – Leamington