



Homelessness Prevention Services and Supports

December 14, 2022



Outline

Background

- The County as Service System Manager
- Homelessness Prevention Services and Supports
- COVID-19 Temporary Motel Shelter Model
- System Capacity

Current Initiatives

- Rose Street – Temporary Emergency Homeless Shelter

Next Steps

- Rose Street – Site for Future Affordable Housing
- Comprehensive Service System Review
- Increased Supportive Housing



The County of Simcoe as Service System Manager – Housing and Homelessness



- **As the Service System Manager, the County of Simcoe Social and Community Services Division is responsible for:**
 - social housing system management
 - direct delivery of community housing (Simcoe County Housing Corporation)
 - funding, administering, and ensuring compliance of housing programs
 - Ontario Works delivery
 - licensed child care system management
 - homelessness prevention services and supports, including funding administration
 - Homeless Enumeration
 - Coordinated Access

Funded Homelessness Prevention Services and Supports



1 Housing Retention Program (directly operated by the County)

1 Regionalized Housing First Program

7 Homeless Shelters

7 Transitional Housing Programs

9 Domiciliary Program Facilities

5 Housing Resource Centres (County wide)

3 Supportive Housing Programs

4 Funded Outreach Programs

COVID-19 Temporary Motel Shelter Model

March 2020

Onset of
Temporary
Motel Shelter
Model

May 2022

Capacity
Limits Lifted

Fall 2021

Extensions
granted
due to surge
in cases of
COVID-19

July 2022

Return to
Regular
Shelter
Settings



Homeless Shelter System Capacity

- Increased regular and temporary shelter capacity in the City of Barrie by 43 beds, for a total of 152
- Solution-focused interventions to increase capacity in regular and temporary settings
 - temporary overnight shelter as an interim measure for women and gender diverse individuals to end of December, with a minimum of five beds and flexibility to accommodate up to 10.
 - bunkbeds were purchased and administrative spaces in shelters was repurposed to accommodate additional beds.
 - +11 beds for Elizabeth Fry
 - +20 beds for the Busby Centre
 - Temporary use of County office space for shelter admin staff
- Increased Housing First rent supplements from \$600 to \$800/month



20 Rose Street - Temporary Shelter Facility

BACKGROUND

- \$1.2M collaboration between the City of Barrie and County of Simcoe
 - County of Simcoe, \$800,000 from its Social Services Reserve
 - City of Barrie contributed \$400,000 from its Reinvestment Reserve

PURPOSE

- Increase the number of overnight shelter beds available to homeless individuals during the coldest months of the year and connect individuals to services and supports

DURATION

- This is a temporary shelter facility for the 2022-23 winter season
- Not intended to be a permanent location, operations anticipated to cease by Spring 2023



20 Rose Street - Temporary Shelter Facility

BUILDING

- Modular. Designed for easy disassembly and transport.

CAPACITY

- Up to 50 individuals each night

OPERATIONS

- The Busby Centre
 - 7 days a week, early evening to mid-morning
 - Integrated services – CMHA, County of Simcoe Paramedics (Community Paramedicine), Ontario Works, other services as required

SECURITY

- Onsite security will be available during operating hours



Photo: CTV News

Drop In Day Services

- Connects individuals with services and supports

BUSBY CENTRE

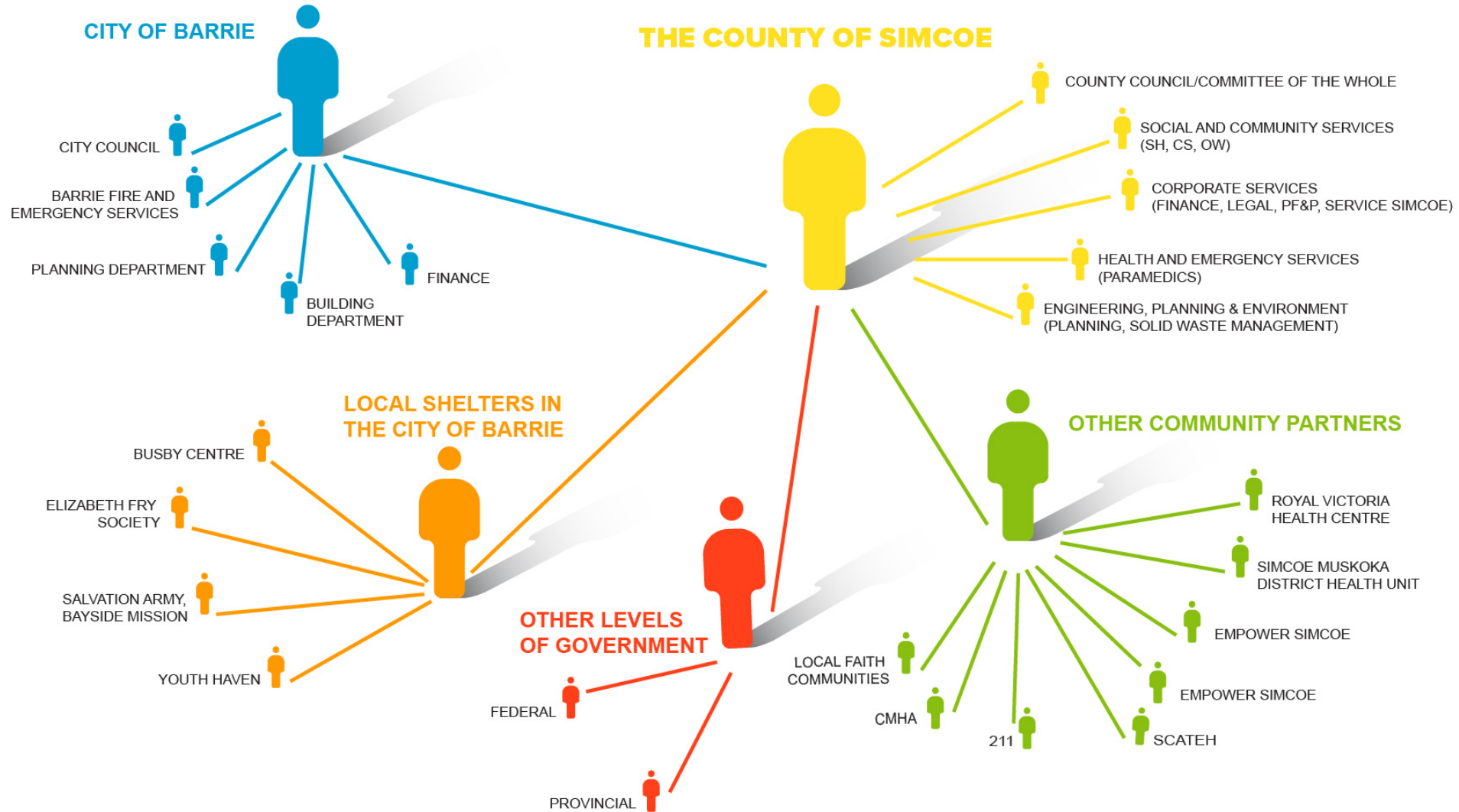
- 88 Mulcaster Street
- 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Meals to go, Support for a range of virtual appointments – medical, housing, court and other ,warming
 - Warming
 - Basic needs items, showers
 - Showers
 - Access to on-site community services such as CMHA, County of Simcoe Paramedics Community Paramedicine Program, Empower Simcoe Housing Services,

SALVATION ARMY BAYSIDE MISSION

- Community Meals Program



The Importance of Partnerships



*This is not an exhaustive list and serves only as an example.
The County is grateful to all of its community partners.



Winter Warming

Warming Centre

- John Howard Society of Simcoe and Muskoka
- Collier Street United Church, 112 Collier Street, Barrie
- 9:00 pm - 8:30 am temperature initiated
- Services and Warming Centre



Additional supports and services, such as health support services and community meal programs can be accessed by calling 211.

20 Rose Street – Future Uses

- Site intended for a future Simcoe County Housing Corporation (SCHC) affordable housing development and social services hub
- Proposed 150-units affordable housing development is in early stages of County Council approved pre-development planning
- Construction could begin as early as spring 2024.

SIMILAR SCHC AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS



Collingwood



Wasaga Beach



Tay



Orillia

Next Steps

- A comprehensive review of the system of Homelessness Prevention Services and Supports
 - Procured a consultant in August 2022 with staff recommendations to County Council planned for Q1 2023
 - Intended to inform recommendations for system transformation
 - Streamline existing system to align with a Housing First Approach including Coordinated Access
 - Inform a system design to leverage the expertise of high performing, outcomes driven service providers
 - Establish KPIs
 - Improve outcome measurement
- Continued planning and development for Rose Street affordable housing development.
 - Two wings of 10 and 8 storeys
 - 150 affordable social housing apartments for seniors, families, and individuals.
 - Ontario Works offices and Children Services, along with other community supportive uses.

