

## Housing Strategic Priority 1: **Affordability**

### **What's been happening?**

- In July 2024, an [Implementation Report](#) went to County Council. Within the report the [Affordable Rental Housing Development Resource Guide](#) was highlighted: With the recognition that community not-for-profit housing providers and the private sector play crucial roles in the provision of housing, an “[Affordable Rental Housing Development Resource Guide](#)” was developed. The guide serves as a resource for organizations seeking to engage in the development, construction, and management of affordable and attainable housing. Although not an exhaustive “how-to” guide to development, the guide sets out the framework within which housing projects are undertaken, provides practical insights into the development process, and serves as an orientation tool and offers insights into best practices and unique considerations for affordable housing projects.
- Middlesex County was a leader in Ontario in supporting CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) applications from local municipalities. This included retaining a consultant to assist with initiative creation and a County-wide housing needs assessment. Middlesex County staff also completed or supported local staff in completing HAF applications. Local municipalities in Middlesex County were some of the few non-urban centered municipalities to submit applications to the HAF program. Following the original HAF application deadline, Middlesex County conducted a robust advocacy and engagement process with MP’s and CMHC staff. Advocacy efforts will continue in 2024.
- CMHC has advised the HAF program received 544 applications nationwide (7 originated from Middlesex County municipalities).
  - 179 HAF applications resulted in signed agreements. One of those agreements is with Quebec for \$900,000,000 which Quebec allocates to projects
  - Approximately 30 signed agreements nationwide were for small/rural/northern and indigenous applications (14 have been announced to date)
  - So far in Ontario, only the Town of Marathon has received funding under the small/rural/northern/indigenous stream of HAF.
- Although not successful, the goal of HAF was to develop initiatives to support the continuum of housing in Middlesex County, to work to address the housing crisis.

## Strategic Initiatives

Through the current [Middlesex County Homeless Prevention and Housing Plan 2019 – 2024](#), Middlesex County is addressing “Affordability” through the following strategic initiatives.

### Affordability Strategic Initiatives

1. Explore use of publicly-owned, available lands for additional affordable housing units.
2. Promote opportunities for redevelopment.
3. Highlight the opportunities that exist in the County to fast track development approvals.
4. Make stakeholders aware of external funding opportunities (i.e. Federal, Provincial).
5. Encourage local municipalities to promote affordable housing. Identify and share best practices in affordability.