2016 HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS REPORT

in the City of Kingston & County of Frontenac



687
People used an emergency shelter in 2016



2.6%
Kingston's vacancy
rate decreased
modestly in 2016*



\$331,317
Average home
sale price in
Kingston in 2016**







INTRODUCTION



A key priority for Kingston City Council is to advance affordable housing to meet the diverse and evolving housing needs in our community. This report provides an update on progress made in 2016.

including the release of affordable housing development and social housing renewal funding under the provincially and federally funded Social Infrastructure Fund. Working together with community partners, the year ahead promises to offer further success in meeting the City's housing goals as we continue to implement the 10-Year Municipal Housing and Homelessness Plan.

- Mayor Bryan Paterson



Now in its fifth year of distribution, the 2016 Report on Housing & Homelessness provides an overview of local housing statistics, housing program summaries and key housing accomplishments achieved over the past

year in Kingston and the County of Frontenac. For 2016, we are pleased to report:

- the completion of 22 new affordable housing units,
- a reduction in emergency shelter demand, and
- the housing of 197 chronically homeless households through the City's Housing & Homelessness Services System since program inception in 2015.

These achievements represent the dedication and hard work of many organizations working together to advance housing affordability and support services within the community.

- Sheldon Laidman,

Director of Housing and Social Services

SERVICES UPDATES

The 10-Year Municipal Housing and Homelessness Plan aims to end chronic homelessness in the area by 2023. Chronic homelessness is defined as being homeless for a period of six months within the past year, either continuously or episodically. In 2015, the local services for homeless people changed focus from maintaining people in homelessness by enabling long-term emergency shelter-use to ending homelessness through permanent housing solutions. Since then, there has been a 17 per cent reduction in shelter-bed demand.

To date, under the Housing First program, 197 formerly homeless households have been housed in permanent housing with supports.

In 2016, the City facilitated the introduction of a pilot Street Outreach Program, led by Home Base Housing and with the assistance of volunteers and staff, Correctional Service of Canada, Addiction and Mental Health Services-KFL&A, Youth Diversion, Street Health, and Salvation Army. Starting in the summer of 2016, teams of workers began sweeping the city's streets and parks to locate, engage and provide water, food, blankets and other harm-reduction supplies to people who are living unsheltered in the rough or who are at imminent risk of homelessness. This initiative has successfully informed people about and connected them to needed services.

To continue addressing homelessness in Kingston and the County of Frontenac, City staff will continue to work diligently with the following partner agencies:

- Kingston Home Base Housing
- Salvation Army, Community Services
- Southern Frontenac Community Services
- Kingston Youth Shelter
- Elizabeth Fry Kingston
- Addiction & Mental Health Services KFL&A

THE HOUSING SYSTEM

Supportive

housing

Not every household has the same housing requirements. Factors such as household size, household income, occupants' stages-in-life and other contributing circumstances determine the requirements to maintain appropriate, stable and affordable housing. In Canada, approximately 80 per cent of households meet their housing needs through the private home ownership and rental housing markets. The remaining 20 per cent encounter barriers to effectively maintain affordable, appropriate and stable housing.

The chart below provides a framework to understand the range of housing programs and services available to households experiencing housing insecurity and affordability challenges. The housing system and programs outlined in this report seek to support households transitioning to more independent housing situations while recognizing some households may require ongoing housing subsidies and/or support services due to unique life circumstances and associated financial barriers.

Affordable

home

ownership

Homelessness

Emergency

shelters

Emergency

Ongoing housing subsidies & housing support services





housing

Affordable

rental

Capital construction funding & down payment

Market rental & ownership housing



Market options available

Housing programs

Homelessness prevention and diversion services

housing

responses

- **Emergency shelters**
- Street outreach program
- Homelessness prevention fund
- **Daytime services**
- Housing First and rapid re-housing of homeless households
- Supportive housing (rent-geared-to-income)
- Social housing (rent-geared-to-income)
- Affordable housing capital funding and land acquisition

assistance

- Home ownership down payment assistance
- Low-income home owner repair and rehabilitation funding
- Second residential unit grant

Household can support market housing costs

\$0 - \$14,000

No to very low income

\$14,001 - \$25,000

Very low to low income

\$25,001 - \$83,000

Low to moderate income

\$83,001 and up

Moderate income and up

86 Emergency shelter beds

2,003 rent-geared-to-income legislated social housing units

56 Homeless system rent-supplement units

197 additional rent-supplement units 398 affordable apartment units created since 2006

115 home ownership grants issued since 2007

152 home rehabilitation grants issued since 2012

88 Second residential units created since 2013

568 new dwelling units created in 2016 as follows:

439 City

129 County

System capacity

MARKET HOUSING DATA

Building permits issued for new housing

Location	2015	2016
Kingston	518	439
North Frontenac	28	31
Central Frontenac	18	18
South Frontenac	60	71
Frontenac Islands	9	9

New housing completions in Kingston

Dwelling	2016	2015	2014	2013
Single-family	182	172	193	204
Semis/row houses	76	36	101	93
Multiple	181	310	186	469
Total	439	518	480	766

Second residential units



Single on ODSP

Christie is a single woman receiving Ontario

Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits. Each month she receives \$1,128 which includes \$479 for housing costs. In Kingston, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in 2016 was \$942. or 83.51 per cent of her total monthly income leaving only \$211 per month for living expenses. In social housing Christie's rent would be based on a portion of her shelter allowance. Christie's shelter allowance from social assistance would be reduced to reflect her new rent amount leaving \$653 for living expenses. Christie is on the social housing waitlist - but the wait for a one-bedroom or bachelor apartment is 5-8 years.

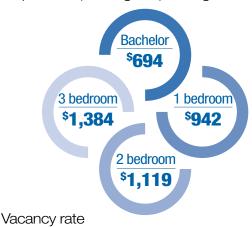
Single on OW

Jeff has a serious undiagnosed mental health condition and receives a total of \$706

per month from Ontario Works (OW). In Kingston, the average rent for a bachelor apartment in 2016 was \$694, which is almost his total monthly income.

While Jeff has demonstrated an interest in getting help for his condition, he doesn't have stable housing. Sometimes he stays at his friends' houses or at the emergency shelter. Without a permanent home, his day-to-day struggles keep him from getting the care he needs. Under the City's Housing First program, Jeff may be eligible for rental assistance and support services to help him acquire and maintain safe and stable housing.

2016 Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (for Kingston) average market rent



Year	Fall vacancy rate
2016	2.6%
2015	2.8%
2014	1.9%
2013	2.3%

How Kingston compares

Community	Average one-bedro	oom rent in 2016
Barrie		\$1,012
Oshawa		\$979
Kitchener/Cambr	idge/Waterloo	\$972
Guelph		\$952
Kingston		\$942
Peterborough		\$834
Brantford		\$833
St Catherine's/Nia	agara	\$802
London		\$802
Greater Sudbury		\$776
Thunder Bay		\$765
Windsor		\$706
Average		\$865

Couple with child, both parents on OW

work and have a 4-year-old child. They receive a combined total of \$1,148 from Ontario Works (OW) along with child tax benefits of which \$646 is a shelter allowance. In Kingston, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment was \$1,119 in 2016 or 62 per cent of their total monthly income. Ryan and Amy struggle by mid-month and make use of local food programs to allow them to meet other expenses while they continue to look for work.

Ryan and Amy are both looking for

Low-income single with child

Claire has worked in a local coffee shop for five years. She enjoys the fast pace and interactions with customers but, at \$11.70 per hour, or about \$1,810 per month after taxes, she

has difficulty affording rent in addition to food and clothing for her son. In Kingston, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in 2016 was \$1,119, or 62 per cent of her total monthly income.

Claire is eligible for social housing where she would pay 30 per cent of her monthly income or \$543 per month for a two-bedroom apartment. The wait time for a two- bedroom apartment is two to five years.

AFFORDABLE

projects completed in 2016



1338 Princess St.

Developer: Kingston Co-operative Homes

Total number of units: 8 Affordable housing units: 8

Funding source: Provincial/Federal/Municipal

Unit size: One-bedroom units

510 Canatara Crt.

Developer: J. Fern Inc. Total number of units: 77 Affordable housing units: 8 **Funding source:** Municipal

> One-bedroom units Typical floor area:

608 Sq. Ft.

Affordability period:

15 years





HOUSING

projects on the horizon

7 Wright Cres.

7 Wright Cres. was purchased by the City under the Affordable Housing Land Acquisition and Disposition Program. City council has since approved the sale of the property to a partnership between the Kingston Municipal Non-profit Housing Corporation (Town Homes Kingston) and CJM Property Management. The proposed redevelopment includes two multi-unit residential apartment buildings including **38 new affordable rental housing units**. Next steps for the project include the land-use planning application review and approvals process including its public consultation requirements. Pending approval, construction is expected to begin in 2018.

671 Brock St.

In summer 2016, the City purchased 671 Brock St., the former site of the St. Joseph/St. Mary Catholic School, from the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board. The redevelopment of the site will provide new public parkland and include new market and affordable housing within an area of Kingston where vacancy rates are traditionally low and rents are relatively high. The Kingston and Frontenac Housing Corporation is proposing a low-rise multi-unit residential project, which will include **10 new affordable housing units** within a mixed-income housing development. Construction of the project is expected to begin in 2017.

1316-1318 Princess St.

Acquired by the City under the Affordable Housing Land Acquisition and Disposition Program, 1316-1318 Princess St. provides an ideal opportunity to redevelop a large conveniently located property in close proximity to a variety of commercial goods and service retailing outlets and express transit services along the Princess Street corridor. The City is pursuing municipal land-use planning approvals to permit the redevelopment of the site

to include mixed commercial and multi-unit residential development. The redevelopment of the property will support revitalization of a vacant property, intensification along the Princess Street corridor and establishment of new affordable and market housing units.

35 Lyons St.

Addiction and Mental Health Services (AMHS) – Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) provides addiction, mental health and housing support services to over 4,000 people within the KFL&A region. The project on Lyons Street represents the second phase of development of a property which already includes a 43-unit residential building. The phase two building will include a total of **20 affordable housing units** in a 44-unit building providing affordable housing stability to vulnerable low-income individuals within the community.

720 Princess St.

Formerly operating as a commercial hotel, 720 Princess St. was converted into permanent residential units by a private developer in 2014. The property owner has recently obtained approval to redevelop the site to create additional residential units. An affordable housing capital contribution will allow for the establishment of **eight affordable housing units** on the redeveloped property.

965 Milford Dr.

Dawn House for Women provided emergency shelter services for women in Kingston from 1986 to 2015 when it closed its shelter on Victoria Street. In 2015, Dawn House purchased 965 Milford Dr. and is now renovating the commercial building to accommodate the new Dawn House Women's Wellness Centre. The renovated facility will be home to marginalized and vulnerable women and will include **nine affordable housing units**, supported communal housing and associated services.

RIDEAU HEIGHTS welcomes community centre and library

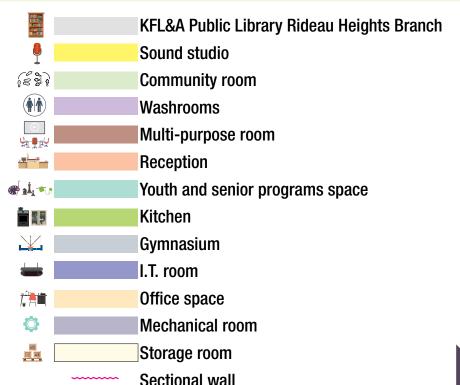
The need for a new community centre in Rideau Heights has been discussed for years. While the Wally Elmer Arena and Youth Centre was a busy hub for community events, youth programming and recreation activity, the building was deteriorating and had limited space to deliver an appropriate range of programming. In 2013, planning for the new community centre and the revitalization of Shannon Park began. Since that time, the Kingston and Frontenac Public Library has also planned to locate a new library branch within the community centre.

In the early winter of 2016, construction began on the new community centre and library which will connect to Rideau Heights Public School through a corridor so that classes can easily access them during school. Connecting the school to the new community centre

will allow for a diverse range of programming and community activities during the day as well as evenings and weekends.

The City is partnering with Kingston-area community and social service programming to provide no- or low-cost activities within the community centre.

The construction of the new community centre and revitalization of Shannon Park represents the first phase of renewal of the neighbourhood which will see social housing and public parkland improvements over the coming years as outlined in the Rideau Heights Regeneration Strategy.



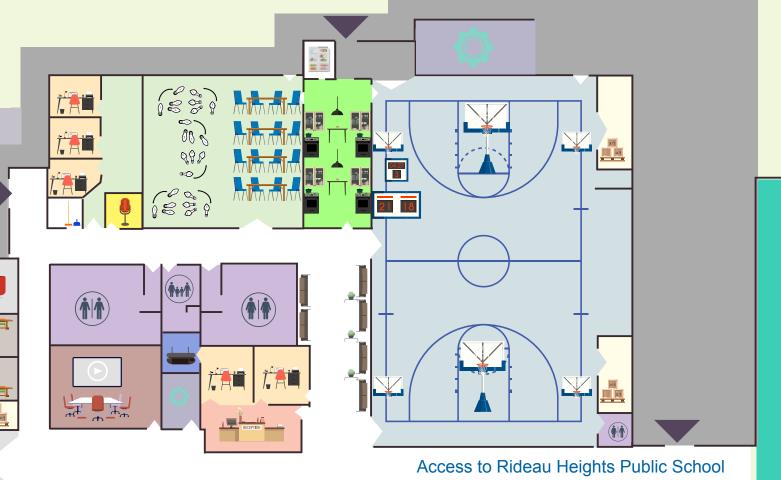


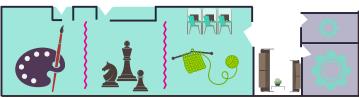


The new community centre will include:

- Kingston Frontenac Public Library Rideau Heights Branch
- Seniors and youth programming and gathering spaces
- Multi-sports gymnasium, change rooms and bleachers
- Multi-purpose activity room
- Kitchen facility for teaching and catered events

- Lounge area for informal social gathering
- Reception area and City office space
- Flexible office spaces to provide on-site community/social services
- Community hall/large group gathering space
- Specialty rooms





For more information about the new community centre and plans for the long-term renewal of the neighbourhood visit **CityofKingston.ca/Projects**



SOCIAL housing

Social housing provides the greatest level of housing affordability within the community; however, the demand for affordably priced housing results in long waiting periods.

Ontario is divided into 47 service manager areas to support the delivery of a variety of provincially regulated social service programs. The City of Kingston's housing and social services department is the service manager for Kingston and the County of Frontenac. It administers, among other things, the local social housing system and manages the social housing waitlist. The service manager is required to maintain 2,003 social housing units providing rent-geared-toincome housing to eligible low-income households. Of the mandated 2,003 units, 16 non-profit housing providers own and operate 1,550 units. The other 453 units are provided through rent supplement payments to private landlords and other non-profit housing providers. The rent paid by the tenant is based on a portion of the shelter allowance paid to social assistance recipients as per legislation. For those with other income sources, rent is generally calculated based on 30 per cent of a household's before-tax income, subject to legislated exceptions.

In 2016, the federal and provincial governments established the Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF), which provides funding to support local housing affordability initiatives. SIF includes the Social Housing Improvement Program (SHIP) component, which provides capital funding to maintain the quality of social housing within the province. The program supports the repair and renovation of existing social housing units and helps conserve energy and water to reduce utility costs for social housing tenants and the social housing non-profit housing providers.

SHIP - Local delivery highlights

- Total funding provided: \$1,535,200
- Number of social housing units benefiting:456
- Average amount of funding per unit: Approx. \$3,400
- Rehabilitation work to include:
 - New energy efficient windows
 - New energy efficient hot water tanks
 - New LED lighting systems
 - New low-flow toilets
 - New attic insulation

Approximate wait times for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) assistance

- Bachelor or one-bedroom: 5-8 years
- Two-bedroom: 2-5 years
- Three-bedroom: 6 months to 3 years
- Four to five bedroom: 1-2 years
- Seniors housing: 1-4 years
- Number of households on a centralized waiting list as of Dec. 31, 2016: 1,115
- New households found eligible for RGI assistance in 2016: 512
- Number of applicants housed from the waiting list in 2016: 168

HOMELESSNESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT (PIT): **2013 compared to 2016**

For the City of Kingston PiT count, people staying in emergency shelters were surveyed, as well as people on the streets who identified themselves as being homeless in April, 2016. In the rural PiT count, rural agencies serving vulnerable persons contacted clients over a two-week period in April, 2016 to conduct a survey with them. To see the full results visit: www.unitedwaykfla.ca/homelessness-pit-count/

City of Kingston

2013

Total number of homeless individuals'

homeless individuals'

3.5 months Typical length of time homeless²

16% **Homeless** individuals living unsheltered3

Female4 52%* Male 48%* 4% Veterans⁵ Indigenous⁵ 9%

2016 Total number of

4 months Typical length of time homeless²

22% **Homeless** individuals living unsheltered3

Female⁴ 50%* Male 46%* **Veterans**⁵ 10% Indigenous⁵ 13%

County and Rural Kingston

2013 Total number of

homeless individuals'

7 months Typical length of time homeless²

2% **Homeless** individuals living unsheltered3

Female⁴ 63% Male 35%* Veterans⁵ 4% Indigenous⁵ 37%

2016 Total number of homeless individuals'

oxplus

4 months Typical length of time homeless²

40% **Homeless** individuals living unsheltered³

Female⁴ 63% Male 33% Veterans⁵ 0% Indigenous⁵ 43%

- ¹ Homeless enumerations are known to always undercount homeless individuals in a community due to the hidden nature and stigma associated with homelessness.
- ² In Canada, chronic homelessness is defined as being homeless for at least six months in the past year.
- ³ Sleeping in parks, tents, the streets, abandoned buildings
- ⁴ Typically only 1/4 to 1/3 of Canada's homeless population is female.
- ⁵ Homelessness typically impacts veterans and indigenous people disproportionately to the population percentage.
- * Participants were not required to indicate gender.



ENDING YOUTH homelessness

2016 was a year of great progress for the local collective impact initiative, Ending Youth Homelessness in Kingston and Area, coordinated by United Way, with the input and involvement of youth, service providers, government, school boards and interested volunteers.

- May 3rd was declared Youth Homelessness
 Awareness Day in Kingston, marking the launch
 of a new innovative education and awareness
 campaign, depicting real stories of local youth.
- Three pilot projects were introduced:
 - 1. Family mediation worker to prevent youth from entering the homelessness system;
 - 2. Addictions & Mental Health Youth Outreach program tailored to youth's specific needs and meeting them where they are at; and
 - 3. LGBTQ+ Mental Health program promoting mental health with gender diverse youth.
- The Youth Council coordinated their annual Youth Summit and helped facilitate practical, interactive and fun breakout sessions on topics they chose related to youth homelessness and youth employment. They also provided input into strategies, workshops, plans and the education and awareness campaign.
- A forum was held with guidance counsellors and adolescent care workers on local resources to help youth prepare for the workforce.

 A Youth Employment Strategy was developed by a Task Force and endorsed by Kingston City council. Coordinated by the City and United Way, the strategy addresses barriers and challenges that youth face in preparing, entering and staying in the local workforce.

Kingston Youth Shelter - Update

It has been an exciting year for The Kingston Youth Shelter, filled with lots of successes, but certainly some challenges still remain. With the support of the City of Kingston and The United Way KFL&A, the Youth Shelter has been able to expand and enhance the services provided to homeless youth. Within the shelter, a housing support worker continues to be a great asset to the emergency shelter services, working with youth specifically on their housing needs both in the shelter and in the community. The addition of a family mediation worker is aimed at preventing youth in conflict with their families from becoming homeless, making great strides in reducing the number of youth entering the shelter system. In addition, the Kingston Youth Transitions program is in the process of expanding to open six additional rooms aimed at providing youth the skills they need to end their homelessness permanently.

THREE MAIN REASONS FOR YOUTH HOMELESSNESS INCLUDE:

- 1. Family conflict
- 2. Mental health and addictions
- 3. Limited education, employment, and skills development



I came From a family
with 4 children and my parents.
We moved around Canada a lot. I had some
family issues that were caused by drug use.
I became homeless. When you don't have a
home to go to or a place to rest, you feel
unwanted and uncomfortable, you are
completely alone. I live in youth housing now.
Keep your head-up, and don't give up.

If you need help, call z11. It's free, z4 hours a day.

- Connor





AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANTS program profiles

	Kingston - Frontenac renovates	Home ownership program	Second residential unit grant
PROGRAM OBJECTIVE	Accessibility and home rehabilitation funding to allow homeowners with low to moderate incomes to stay in their home	Home ownership down payment assistance available to renter households with low to moderate incomes	Construction cost assistance and/or municipal application fee rebates to support the development of a second residential unit
AVAILABLE WITHIN	County and City	County and City	City
MAXIMUM FUNDING AVAILABLE	\$3,500 for accessibility enhancements \$10,000 for emergency repairs	5 per cent of purchase price up to \$14,529	Municipal fee rebate up to \$7,000 Capital funding up to \$15,000
FUNDING FORM	Forgivable loan or accessibility grant	Forgivable loan	Forgivable loan
HOUSEHOLD INCOME ELIGIBILITY	Eligible income limits (by size of household): 1-2 persons \$40,000 3-4 persons \$50,000 5+ persons \$65,000 Households with incomes of \$65,500 - \$83,300 may be considered	Households with incomes of less than \$83,300 are eligible Maximum house price \$290,580	All homeowners are eligible Eligible tenant household income limits (by type of dwelling unit): Bachelor unit \$26,000 One-bedroom unit \$33,000 Two-bedroom unit \$40,000
HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED IN 2016	Accessibility Enhancements 2 households; average funding provided \$3,500 Emergency Repairs 23 households; average funding provided \$8,254	5 households; average down payment amount \$11,205	Capital Funding 2 households; average capital contribution amount \$15,000





ADDRESSING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

and homelessness in the county

Homelessness is often considered primarily a challenge in urban areas. However, evidence suggests approximately 7 to 9 per cent of all homeless people live in rural areas.

In 2016, organizations committed to ending rural homelessness within the City of Kingston and County of Frontenac began pursuing a collaborative effort to address rural homelessness. With financial support from the United Way, a Rural Homelessness Summit was hosted in Sharbot Lake and more than 50 people attended. The Summit engaged participants in discussions to develop local strategies to address rural homelessness. The discussions were supported by prior research and stakeholder interviews with: community leaders, social-service providers and people who have experienced poverty, housing insecurity and homelessness. Common themes emerging from the research and Summit discussions included:

- Limited availability of affordably priced housing
- Inappropriate housing size based on the number of occupants in household
- Substandard housing conditions
- High utility costs
- Employment instability (i.e. seasonal or part-time work)
- Insufficient social assistance support to cover the full costs of housing

Based on the Summit proceedings and subsequent analysis, four strategies emerged that were considered achievable:

- 1. Expanding housing options for low income and homeless individuals and families in rural areas
- 2. Improving access to services for rural residents
- 3. Enhancing targeted prevention of homelessness in rural areas
- 4. Promoting local leadership to improve local service delivery and champion homeless issues

With these strategies established next steps will be to work collaboratively on ways to end rural homelessness.

Due to limited rental housing availability, increasing utility costs, and an increasing population on fixed incomes, maintaining stable and affordable housing is an issue for many households within the County of Frontenac. In response to a growing focus on housing affordability, in 2016:

- A new Official Plan for the County of Frontenac was adopted and included affordable housing policies to support the development of affordable housing options amongst the Townships that make up the County.
- Individual Townships established affordable and seniors' housing working groups to support the implementation of affordable housing programs and projects.
- Municipal planning approvals and capital funding was secured to construct a five unit seniors' residence in Marysville on Wolfe Island. Preliminary project planning commenced for a small multi-unit seniors' rental housing project in the Township of South Frontenac.

These, amongst other emerging initiatives, will work to support housing affordability across the County of Frontenac.



The City of Kingston is the service manager for housing and homelessness programs for the City of Kingston and County of Frontenac. You can contact us and learn about our services and programs at:

HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES 362 Montreal St. Kingston, ON K7K 3H5 613-546-2695 ext. 4907 CityofKingston.ca/Housing

HOUSING PROGRAMS

- Affordable Housing Capital Funding
- Kingston-Frontenac Renovates
- Home Ownership Program
- Second Residential Unit Grant

housing@cityofkingston.ca

613-546-2695 ext. 4907

SOCIAL HOUSING REGISTRY

Rent-geared-to-income applications theregistry@cityofkingston.ca 613-546-2695 ext. 4764

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

For information about the homelessness services offered by the funded Service Providers through the Kingston-Frontenac Housing & Homelessness Services System please visit **CityofKingston.ca/Housing.**

We welcome your feedback. To comment on this document email **housing@cityofkingston.ca**. If you require this information in an accessible format email **ContactUs@cityofkingston.ca** or call **613-546-0000**.

