



Bridge Housing Program Update

City of Barrie – Affordability Committee

April 15, 2026



What is Bridge Housing?

Purpose: A service-intensive housing model that provides a safe and stable environment to support stabilization, recovery, and transition to permanent housing.

Partnership model: Designed by OrgCode, funded by CAEH (one-year pilot), and delivered by the County of Simcoe in collaboration with qualified service agencies and community partners.

Service delivery: Comprehensive, 24/7 on-site supports provided by trained professionals.

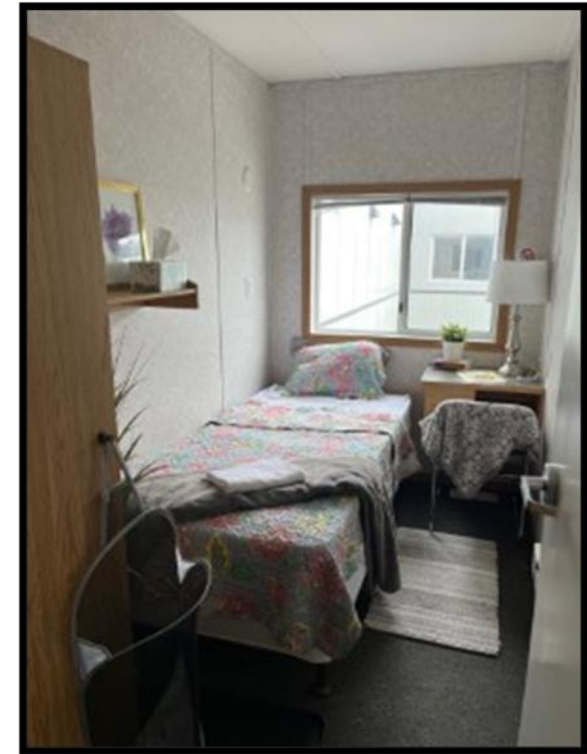
Individualized supports: Services are tailored to each participant's unique needs.

Types of supports: May include addictions treatment, mental health services, primary care, life-skills development, and income or employment assistance.



Quick Facts

- 40 individual units
- Serving unsheltered, chronically homeless adults in the City of Barrie
- Federally funded through the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund (HRIF)
- Service Agreement between County of Simcoe and OrgCode
 - Comprehensive program design and governance, including policies and guidelines, with intensive operator training, ongoing support, and continuous program review
- Delivered by a service provider consortium, led by Empower Simcoe, The Busby Centre, and Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe–Muskoka
- Clinical and community partners based on participant's needs will include OW, ODSP, Community Paramedicine, Hart Hub Primary Partners, etc.
- Referrals via Simcoe County Coordinated Access System; eligibility: 18+, no dependents, chronically homeless, unsheltered in Barrie



Quick Facts

- Housing First, trauma-informed approach, with supports tailored to each participant's needs
- Intensive on-site supports, including program orientation, ID and documentation support, income and budgeting assistance, case management, wellness checks, case reviews, and community referrals
- Bridge Housing model focused on rapid exits to permanent housing (target ≤ 90 days; maximum eight months except in extenuating circumstances)
- 24/7 on-site staffing, with 4–8 staff on duty at any time (reduced overnight complement).
- Hub building provides space for case conferencing, participant visitors, communal use, and meal/food supports

Operators & Partners

County of Simcoe (Service Manager) – Program development and oversight, including data reporting and ongoing operational and outcomes review

OrgCode – Service agreement for training, coaching, and technical assistance supporting the HRIF-funded Bridge Housing Program

CAEH – One-time HRIF funding for pilot implementation; ongoing operational support, communications, and data assistance

Empower Simcoe, The Busby Centre, & Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe–Muskoka – 24/7 on-site operations supporting participant stabilization, housing planning, life skills, and service connections

The Salvation Army Bayside Mission – Interim preparation and delivery of three daily meals for program participants

Social Assistance (**OW/ODSP**) – Financial and employment assistance, stabilization supports, and issuance of related benefits (e.g., transportation, medical)

HART Hub Primary Partners (*Barrie and Area Ontario Health Team, Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin Primary Care Team, Barrie Native Friendship Centre, Royal Victoria Health Centre, Canadian Mental Health Association, Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care*) – On-site and off-site mental health, addictions, primary care, and supportive housing services

The Busby Centre & BRAWC – Outreach services connecting unsheltered individuals prioritized for program entry



Community Engagement & Next Steps

- Week of April 6, 2026 – Near-Neighbour ‘Door-Knocking’ and Fact Sheet Delivery
- April 10, 2026 – Neighbourhood Open House and Guided Tours
- Week of April 20, 2026 – Initial Cohort of participants being to move into the program (4 cohorts will be prioritized incrementally to help support successful participant program integration and onboarding)
- End of May –38 units fully occupied
- Renovations to commercial kitchen and office spaces at 113 Tiffin St. complete.
- Ongoing – Data and outcomes tracking for balance of pilot project.
- Ongoing – Program review and engagement between OrgCode, CAEH, County of Simcoe and partners, to ensure successful program outcomes.

Questions?

