

Why the need for this housing?

When released from correctional facilities, these individuals often fall victim to a vicious cycle of homelessness, re-involvement with law enforcement, incarceration, and then back to homelessness. These individuals may be released into homelessness due to having no residence prior to incarceration or losing their housing while incarcerated.

Justice-involved individuals face heightened barriers when compared to most others. These include severe mental health and substance use issues, lack of education and employment, and a criminal record that can hinder their ability to find housing.

The Provincial Human Services Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) has put out a call for housing and support models for individuals post-incarceration. In their 2024 Pre-Budget Submission, the committee has requested \$33 million to be allocated for development of evidence-based models, and for \$11 million of that to go towards development of transitional and supportive housing.

1

What are the current best practices for supporting and housing justice-involved individuals in Ontario?

2

How are other organizations addressing the housing and support needs of these individuals?

3

What service models offer promise in meeting the complex needs of justice-involved individuals in Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge?

Methodology

A review of the literature was completed to explore best practices, comparing strategies, and evaluating different service models. A survey was developed and deployed provincially to determine current efforts of other agencies. Five semi-structured interviews were conducted to gain knowledge on how services are being provided, their strengths and areas needing improvement.

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Just Housing for Individuals Post-Incarceration

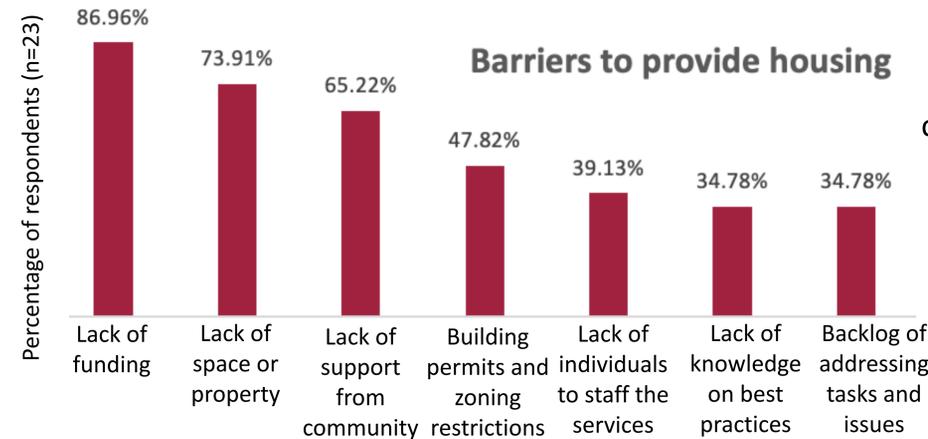
Key Findings and Results

Survey Results

51-90%

Clients housed in **transitional housing** were successful in finding permanent housing

Mental health and addiction services were the most prominent service for individuals' successful reintegration



Interview Key Themes

Collaboration

is needed between support services and with the justice-involved individuals to fully support them. This includes the need to go to the client when they cannot go to the service.

Transitional Services

are needed to support justice-involved individuals transitioning out of custody. Transitional housing is crucial to gradually introduce the skills needed for independent living.

Recreational Programming

is crucial to social reintegration and to keep people engaged both while waiting for housing to become available and in efforts to be successful in moving through the continuum.

"There is just nothing affordable"

"They don't know where or who to go to"

Best Practices

Providing support to justice-involved individuals need to start as soon as possible, while the individual is still incarcerated, rather than waiting for a release date or until they have been released. This will build connections with the individuals which gives them at least one constant in a changing time. It is also crucial to which supports will be needed, and waitlist for many, especially housing, are extremely long.

Housing units should be built and offered nearby support services. Transportation is one of the big barriers that justice-involved individuals face when accessing support services. Ideally, an effective housing community would mimic that of a retirement community, with housing units surrounded by service buildings such as medical services, mental health and addiction services, and recreational activities

On-site transitional support is needed to aid in the transition from unhoused to housed. Transitioning an unhoused individual into housing can present significant challenges for them. Many individuals may not have ever had their own room or apartment and lack the necessary skills to maintain a unit. Without these skill, clients often report negative housing experience and can result in the loss of their unit.

Future Directions

One potential future direction as suggested during an interview could explore the possibility and effectiveness of working in "case management teams" rather than a client having one primary worker. This would increase collaboration and reduce the barrier of not knowing what else to do.

A second future direction also suggested during an interview would be to evaluate the effectiveness of support services if agencies poured all of their efforts into one type of service rather than so many agencies supplying many services.