

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING UMBRELLA GROUP 2011

REPORT CARD

This 4th Annual Report Card and its accompanying booklet have been produced by the Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG) to bring awareness to the issues of homelessness and housing in Waterloo Region.

People need housing, income, and support to maintain housing stability in their lives.

- **Housing** must be safe, accessible, adequately maintained, of suitable size, affordable, provide security of tenure and be acceptable to the individual.
- People must have enough **income** to sustain the minimum standards for rent, utilities, food, health, clothing, education, transportation and recreation.
- People must have the opportunity to access additional **support**, as needed, to help them live as independently as desired and to connect to others in meaningful ways.

Everyone has a role to play in ending homelessness and promoting housing stability in Waterloo Region – all levels of government, non-profit groups, the private sector and community members. The HHUG celebrates the strong commitment of our local government and community partners in 2010 to improve housing stability in the face of challenging times.

The 2011 Report Card measures **change in housing stability indicators in 2010 compared to 2009** accounting for growth in population and inflation. A glossary of terms and explanation of the data can be found at www.hhug.ca. The accompanying Report Card booklet further reviews the report card data and highlights some innovative responses to addressing homelessness and housing in Waterloo Region.

HOMELESSNESS	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No change in number of emergency shelter bed nights.• Number of people using emergency shelter system also remained the same.
RENTAL HOUSING COST AND INCOME	B-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was a 5.5% increase in minimum wage but the housing wage for rental units remains above the minimum wage.• The shelter allowance for OW and ODSP increased slightly more than inflation.• Average market rents continue to increase at rate of inflation and still remain unaffordable to many people living with low income.
RENTAL HOUSING AVAILABILITY	C+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although additional housing was built in 2010, the demand continues to exceed the availability for both private market rentals and Community Housing units.• The vacancy rate decreased to 2.6%. This is below a healthy vacancy rate of 3%.
SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN HOUSING	C-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of new housing with support spaces is 65 representing a 2.6% increase.• There was a significant increase in the number of households waiting for housing with support (18%). The number of households waiting for housing with support grew at a far faster rate than new supply.
OVERALL HOUSING STABILITY GRADE	C+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT. OUR COMMUNITY IS KEEPING PACE.• Increased supply of housing, supports and affordability nearly offset by increased demand.

Our Grades: **A** = Significant Improvement
D = Some Worsening

B = Some Improvement
F = Significant Worsening

C = No Improvement

The **Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG)** is a non-partisan group consisting of concerned individuals, agencies and groups committed to preventing and reducing homelessness in Waterloo Region.



Homelessness &
Housing Umbrella Group

		2008	2009	2010
Homelessness				
C	• Number of emergency shelter bed nights	63,277	68,019	67,943
	• Number of people served by emergency shelters	2,784	2,860	2,859
	• Percentage of emergency shelter residents returning for shelter			
	• Returning within the same year	27%	20%	25%
	• Returning in more than one calendar year over the past five years	27%	27%	28%
Rental Housing Cost and Income (Affordability)				
B-	• Average Market Rent			
	• bachelor	\$561	\$589	\$589
	• one bedroom	\$712	\$722	\$740
	• two bedrooms	\$845	\$856	\$872
	• three or more bedrooms	\$978	\$990	\$1,012
	• Average Housing Wage			
	• bachelor	\$10.78	\$11.33	\$11.33
	• one bedroom	\$13.69	\$13.88	\$14.23
	• two bedrooms	\$16.25	\$16.46	\$16.77
	• three or more bedrooms	\$18.81	\$19.04	\$19.46
	• Minimum Wage	\$8.75	\$9.50	\$10.25
	• Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Works (OW)	\$349	\$356	\$368
	• Monthly shelter allowance for a single person on Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)	\$445	\$454	\$469
• Number of Rent Bank loans	260	346	320	
Rental Housing Availability				
C+	• Number of households on Community Housing Waiting List	3,100	3,015	2,737*
	• one bedroom	1,660	1,531	1,278
	• two bedrooms	593	558	493
	• three or more bedrooms	847	926	966
	• Number of Community Housing units (completed)	9,978	10,034	10,188
	• Vacancy rate – private market rent units	1.8%	3.3%	2.6%
	• Number of private market rent units	31,183	31,205	31,561
* These numbers do not reflect less demand for affordable housing, which has remained fairly steady over the years, but rather are the result of a change in the software system used to manage the waitlist.				
Support to Maintain Housing				
C-	• Number of housing spaces with support	1,473	1,453	1,518
	• Number of households waiting for long term support to maintain housing	1,176	1,153	1,378
	• non-specific (general)	518	608	646
	• specific	658	545	732
OVERALL HOUSING STABILITY GRADE				
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For more information or to download a copy of the Report Card, the Report Card Booklet or the glossary, please visit our website at www.hhug.ca.

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