

Cambridge STEP Home Collaborative

Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Project Description: This was a two-year pilot project with the goal of housing 50 individuals with the highest chronicity and acuity

Distinguishing Features: The program worked with both community landlords and potential tenants to create a positive housing environment for all involved. It also included a detailed plan to help individuals recover from chronic homelessness and implement life skills so they could remain in housing going forward.

Population Served: Chronically Homeless individuals with high acuity

Full Case Study: <https://amho.ca/wp-content/uploads/CS-01-Cambridge-Step-1.pdf>

SUMMARY

The Cambridge STEP Home Collaborative was a pilot program designed to connect chronically homeless individuals with community landlords in Waterloo Region. A unique aspect of this plan was recruiting and supporting local landlords to ensure this project was beneficial to both parties. This was deemed to be necessary for the continuation of housing availability, and also helped support relational skills between the two groups involved to promote a healthy living environment.

As outlined below, the program's 3 phase framework, and subsequent 5 stage plan worked to address homeless individuals' symptoms and causes of homelessness; It allowed them to get housing, and also have support and guidance as they recovered from homelessness.

Exceeding their initial goal of housing 50 participants within a 2- year project, they were able to get 62 chronically homeless individuals housed. Out of those 62, 11 people returned to homelessness, however 8 of those were re-housed through the program. This means that this STEP program successfully housed and supported 59 individuals into housing within the community.

3 PHASE HOUSING PLAN

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| Phase 1 | Eligibility, Invite to Service and Document Readiness Outreach workers worked to get participants "document ready" to find housing. This included : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identification- Service Agreement & Consent forms- Proof of income [outreach workers assisted in securing financial assistance when needed] |
| Phase 2 | Housing Search, Lease Signing, and Move in Liaison workers connected with community landlords who were willing to participate in the housing program. Participants were guided through the process of property viewing, landlord approval, and finally moving in |
| Phase 3 | Support The support phase included a 5-stage plan to help participants recover from homelessness. Peer support coordinators worked through the 5-stage plan guidebook with each participant, addressing any needs, aiding in community integration, and encouraging other skill-building activities |

