Homelessness Presentation to the Board

October 21, 2021

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THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Introduction

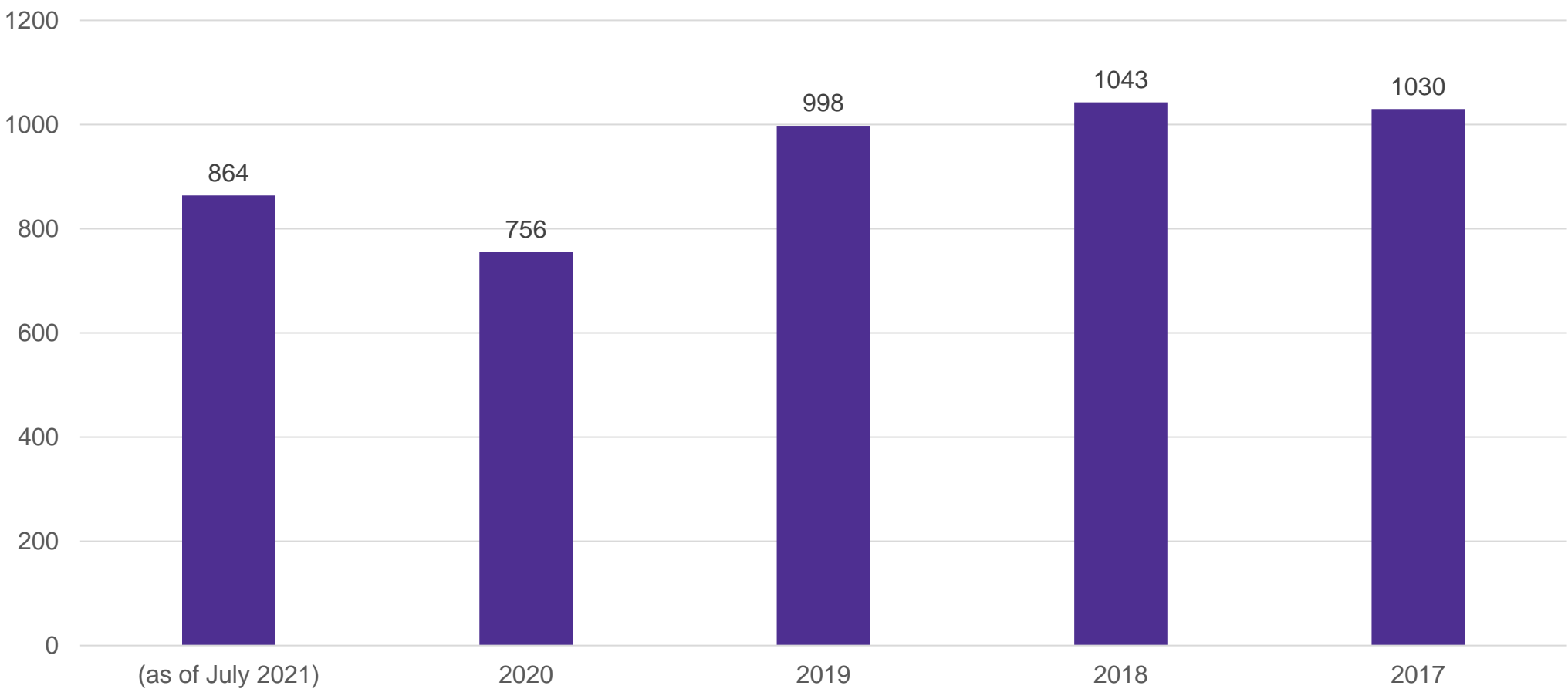Homelessness System Overview

Programs and Initiatives

Organizational Approach

Future Vision

TBDSSAB Waitlist

	864	756	998	1043	1030

Bar chart showing waitlist numbers:
- (as of July 2021): 864
- 2020: 756
- 2019: 998
- 2018: 1043
- 2017: 1030

Affordable Housing Needs Being Met
Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH)

Project	# of Units	Awarded	Completed
TBDSSAB – 8 plex (2) (Thunder Bay)	16	2014	2018
Victoria Avenue (Thunder Bay)	20	2014	2016
Bell Street (Nipigon)	4	2016	2018
Kay Bee Seniors (Kakabeka)	4	2016	2017
Northern Linkage (Thunder Bay)	24	2016	2019
Matawa NFP (Thunder Bay)	8	2018	2019
Kay Bee Seniors (Kakabeka) – Phase 2	6	2018	2019
Salvation Army Journey to Life (Thunder Bay)	20	2018	2020
Total	**102**		

Additional Housing Needs Being Met

- The Home for Good (HFG) Program started in 2018.

- HFG was built upon TBDSSAB's High Needs Homeless Waitlist.

- HFG added:

  - 20 transitional units

  - 80+ rental units

  - Wraparound supports for homeless individuals transitioning from homeless to housed.

10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan

- TBDSSAB is responsible for reporting to the public and to the province annually on the progress made towards achieving goals of the plan.

- Presented annually to the TBDSSAB Board.

- 5-year review and update completed in 2019 with new goals and objectives approved by the Board.

CHPI Vision

- A coordinated and holistic service delivery system that is people-centered, evidence informed and outcome-based and reflects the approach that focuses on homelessness previsions and reduced reliance on emergency services.

- Focus on proactive and permanent housing solutions rather than reactive and temporary responses to homelessness.

CHPI Program Objectives & Outcomes

CHPI Programs Support the province's goal to end chronic homelessness by 2025.

- People experiencing homelessness obtain and retain housing.

- People at risk of homelessness remain housed.

- Individuals requiring supports are connected with community partners to address their needs.

Outcomes (2020 year-end)

- Emergency shelter to transitional housing: **33**

- Emergency shelter to long term housing: **85**

- Housing assistance to support trying to obtain housing: **1370**

- Housing loss prevention: **249**

- Employment assistance referral: **20**

- Housing retention: **101**

Service Categories & Eligible Use of Funding

Funding may be used in any of the following service categories:

Emergency Shelter Solutions

Housing with Related Supports
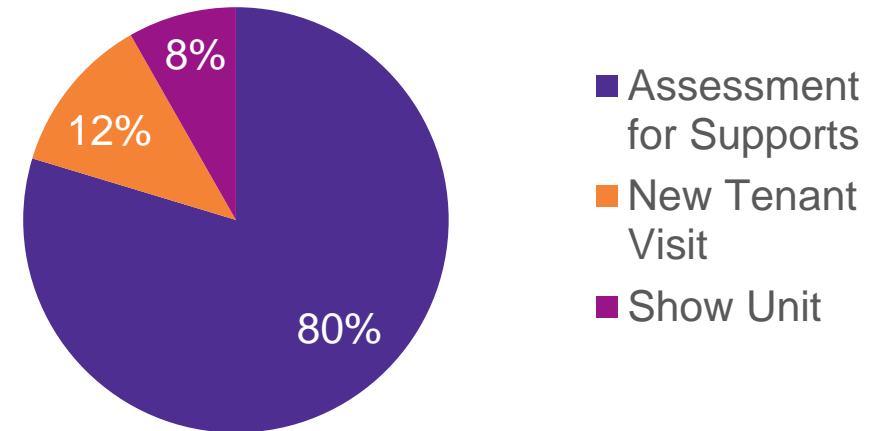
Other Services and Supports

Homelessness Prevention

Current CHPI Programs

Tenant Support Workers on planting day at a community garden

- Shelter House: Emergency Shelter and SOS Program

- Salvation Army: Emergency Shelter and Habitat Program

- Lutheran Community Care: Supportive Housing

- TBDSSAB: Housing Security Fund, Tenant Support Workers, Homelessness Prevention Officer

2020 Tenant Support Worker Referrals Reason for Visit

8%
12%
80%

- Assessment for Supports
- New Tenant Visit
- Show Unit

CHPI Food Security Fund

- Application-based fund to assist in the area of food security to directly support homelessness prevention.

- Addressing areas supporting food security will impact those most vulnerable and identify access routes to supports.

13

2021 CHPI Food Security Fund recipient

Shelter House Thunder Bay

- Emergency Shelter Services

- SOS Program

Permanent Bed Capacity	
# of beds	**Location**
27	Adult Male Dormitory
5	Adult Female Dormitory
5	Youth Female Dormitory (ages 16-25)
5	Youth Male Dormitory (ages 16-25)

Overflow Bed Capacity	
# of beds	**Location**
4	Youth Resource Room
7	Lobby
9	Adult Resource Room

Shelter House Thunder Bay - SOS Program

- 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily

- ensure individuals have prompt access to services needed.

- SOS carries supplies such as warm clothing, blankets, food, and harm reduction supplies for distribution.

- SOS visits encampments and distributes supplies.

Salvation Army Thunder Bay

- Emergency Shelter Services
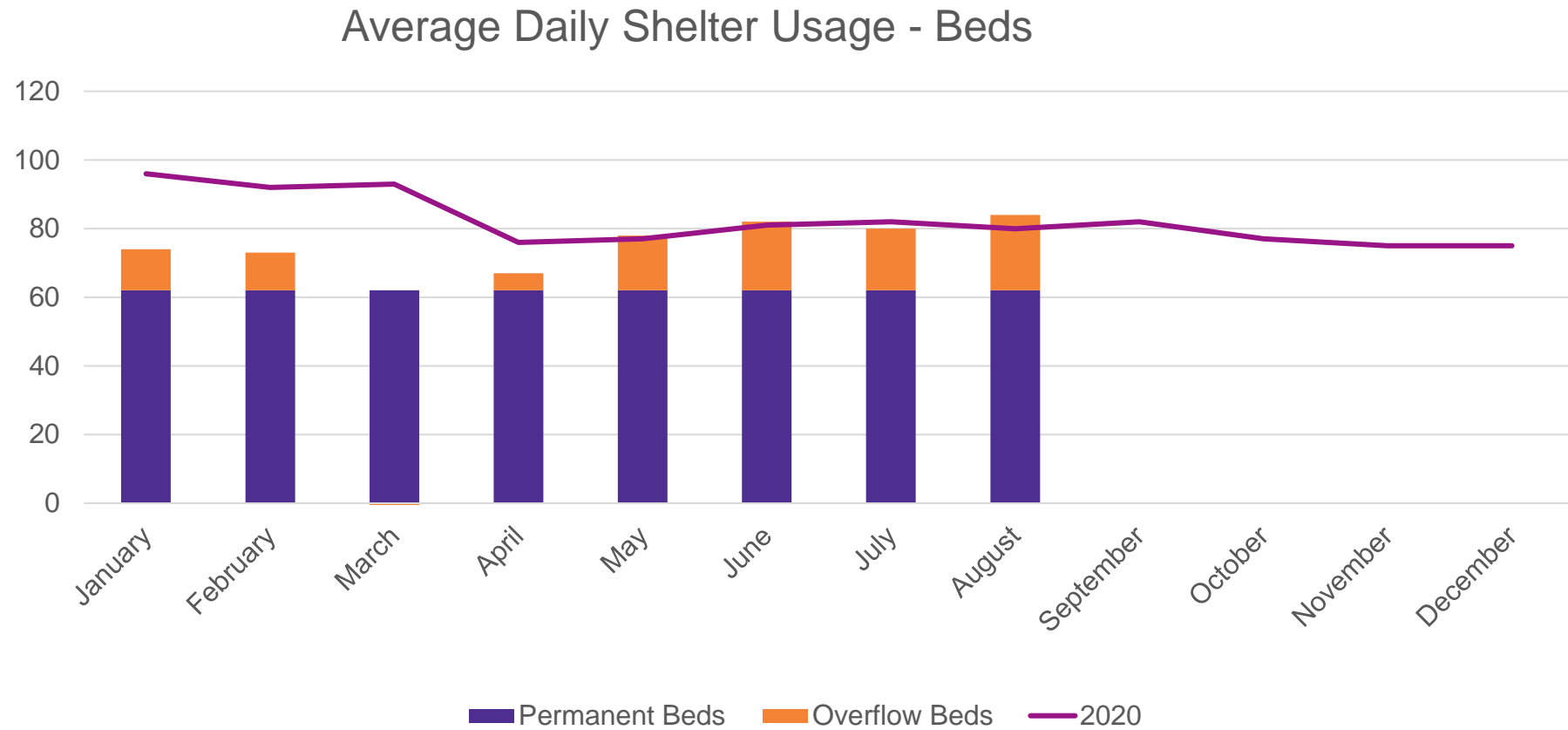
- Case Management to Exit Shelter

Permanent Bed Capacity	
# of beds	Location
20	Adult Male Dormitory

Overflow Bed Capacity	
# of beds	Location
2	Sober Up Beds
10	Overflow Beds

Shelter Usage Trend

Average Daily Shelter Usage - Beds

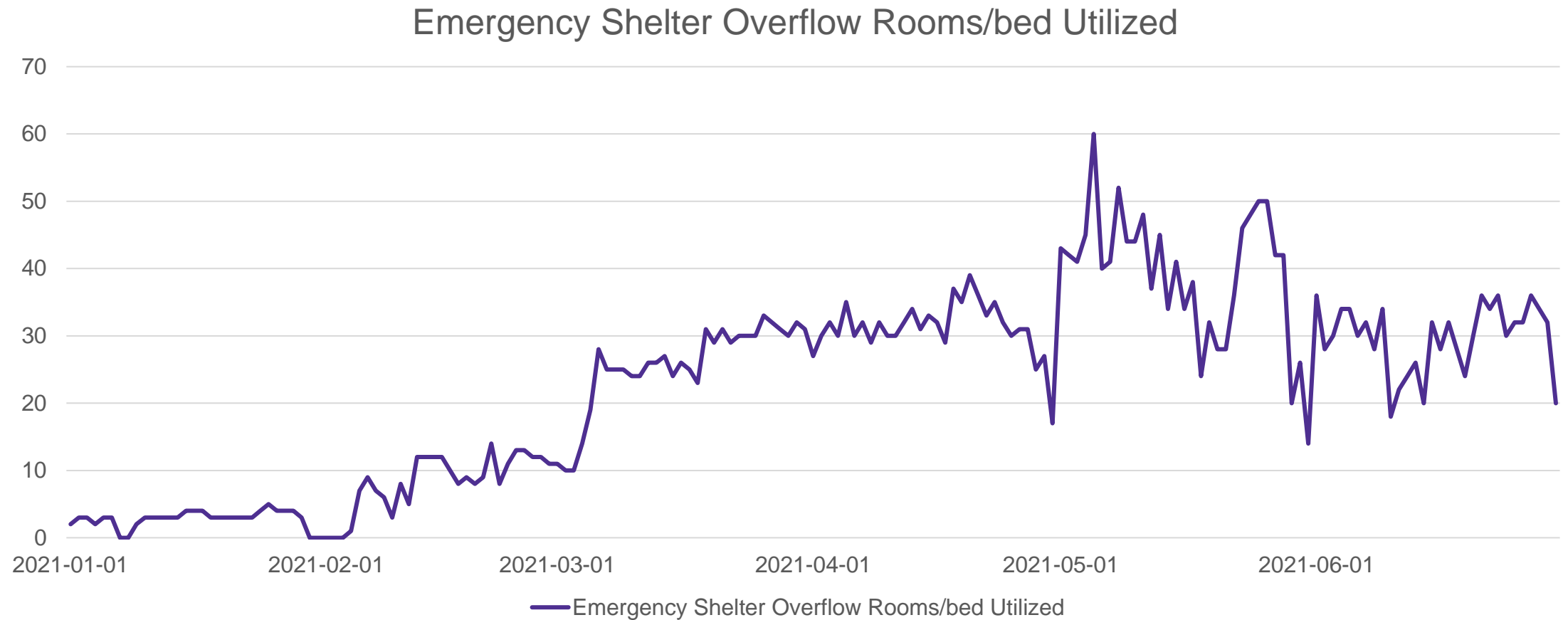Legend: Permanent Beds, Overflow Beds, 2020

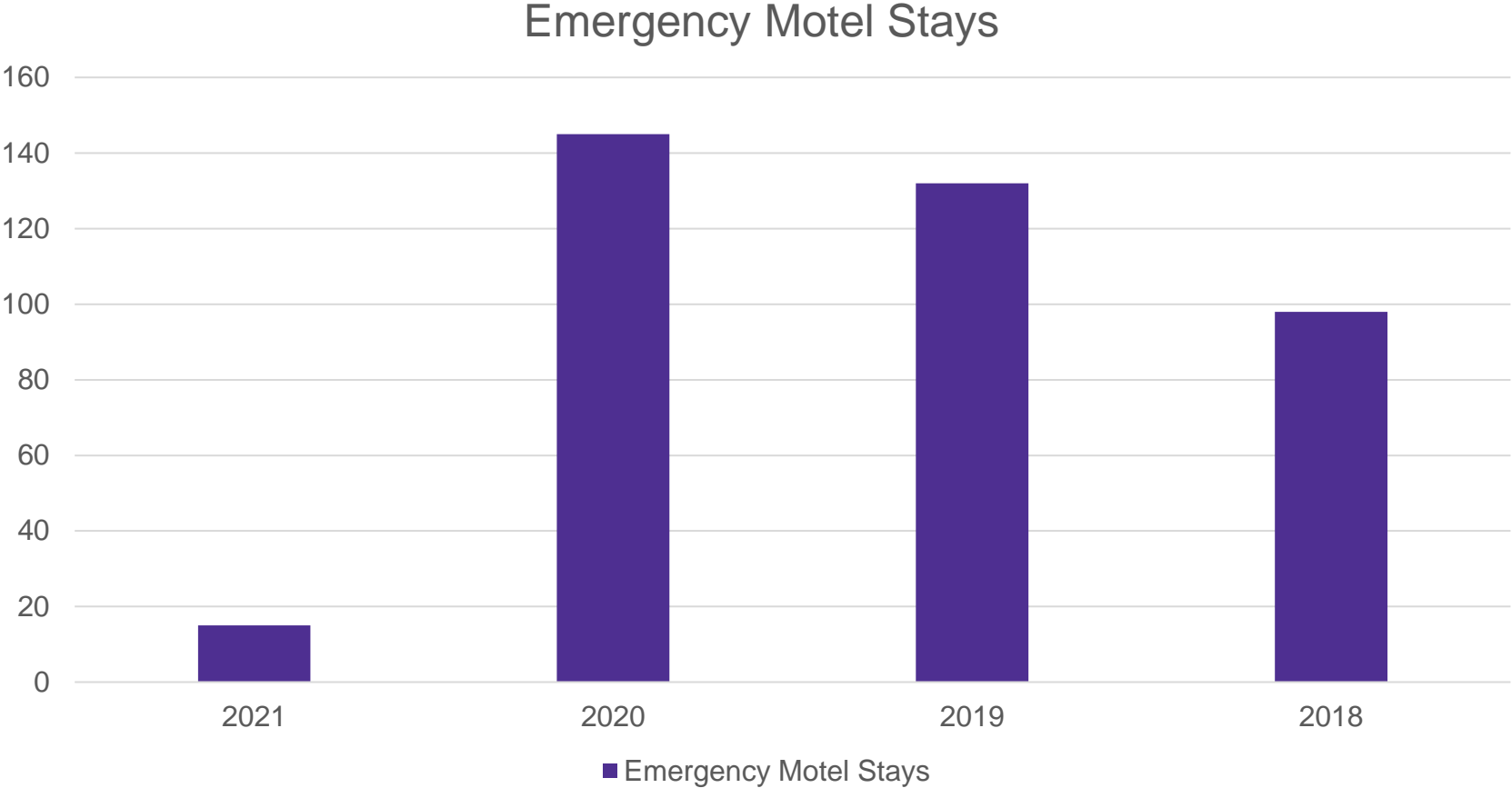# Grace Place – Out of the Cold and Overflow

- Operates November 1st to April 30th.

- Provides a low-barrier overnight emergency shelter to those who, for any reason, are not allowed access to other Thunder Bay shelters.

- TBDSSAB has historically utilized local motels in circumstances where individuals and/or families could not be served by one of the emergency shelters or by the Out of the Cold Program.

Overflow Usage 2021

Emergency Shelter Overflow Rooms/bed Utilized

—— Emergency Shelter Overflow Rooms/bed Utilized

Emergency Sheltering Outside the City of Thunder Bay

Emergency Motel Stays

Year	Emergency Motel Stays
2021	15
2020	145
2019	132
2018	98

■ Emergency Motel Stays

Housing and Homelessness Programs

The *Housing Services Act* gives service managers general powers to establish, administer and fund housing and homelessness programs, including direct delivery.

Homelessness Prevention Staff Support

- TBDSSAB Tenant Support Workers

- Transitional Outreach Support Workers

- Homelessness Prevention Officer

- Lutheran Community Care Support Worker

Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT)

- Used to assess an individual's ability to retain and maintain housing without intervention.

- Identifies high needs individuals in order to assist with community supports that can lead to housing.

SERVICE PRIORITIZATION DECISION ASSISTANCE TOOL (SPDAT)

Single Adults | VERSION 5.0

Name: _____ Worker: _____

Date: _____ SPDAT #: *(Initial, Move-In, 30-days, etc.)* _____

A. Mental Health & Wellness & Cognitive Functioning

4	Any of the following: ☐ Serious and persistent mental illness (declaration of such; or, two or more hospitalizations in a mental health facility or psychiatric ward of a hospital because of a diagnosable mental health condition that is likely serious and persistent) **and** not in a heightened state of recovery currently ☐ Major barriers to performing tasks and functions of daily living or communicating intent because of a brain injury, learning disability, or developmental disability
3	Any of the following: ☐ Heightened concerns about state of mental wellness, but without two or more hospitalizations in a mental health facility/ward (or proof thereof), and/or without knowledge of the presence of a diagnosable mental health condition ☐ Diminished ability (reduced achievement) to performing tasks and functions of daily living or communicating intent because of a brain injury, learning disability, or developmental disability
2	While there may be concern for overall mental health or mild impairments to performing tasks and functions of daily living or communicating intent, all of the following are true: ☐ No major concerns about the safety or ability of the individual to be housed without intensive supports to assist with mental health or cognitive functioning ☐ No major concerns to the health and safety of others because of mental health or cognitive functioning ability ☐ No compelling reason to have the individual screened by an expert in mental health or cognitive functioning <u>prior</u> to housing to fully understand capacity
1	☐ The individual is in a heightened state of recovery, understands symptoms and strategies for coping with them, and is engaged with mental health supports as necessary.
0	☐ No mental health or cognitive functioning issues disclosed, suspected, or observed.

NOTES/COMMENTS RATIONALE:

High Needs Homeless

SPDAT Scoring:

- If score is high individual who's on Social Housing Waitlist is moved to the High Needs Homeless Waitlist.

- Referred to Home for Good

- Two options for High Needs Homeless Waitlist:

  - Receive a Rent Supplement through Home for Good, or

  - Wait for a social housing unit (2:1 ratio for selection).

Home for Good (HFG)

The aim of Home for Good (HFG) is to **reduce chronic homelessness by providing enhanced supports** to homeless individuals in the District of Thunder Bay.

Four priority target populations:

1. chronic homelessness
2. youth homelessness
3. Indigenous homelessness
4. Homelessness following transition from provincially funded institutions and service systems.
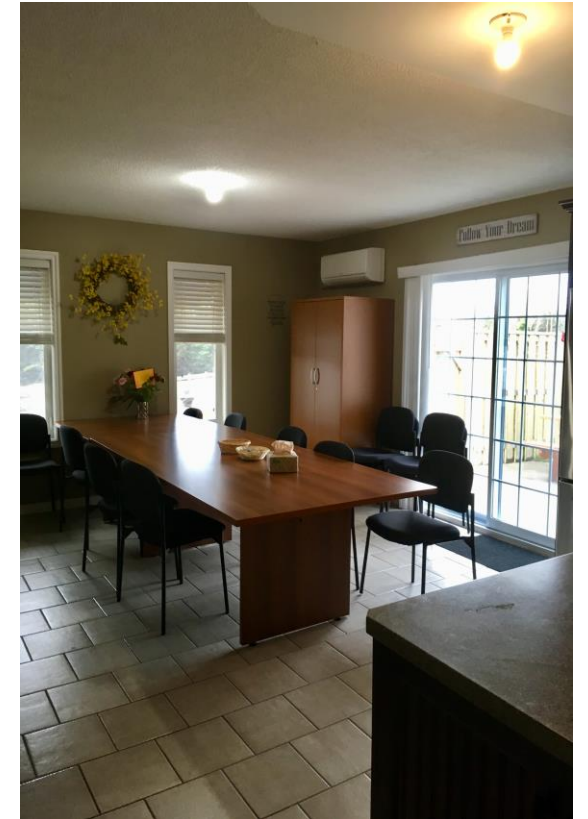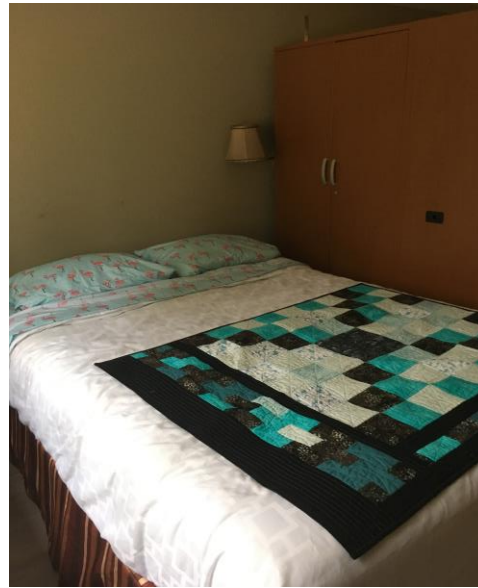
Home for Good Partners

- In order to meet the four priority target populations, TBDSSAB partnered with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and with St. Joseph's Care Group while augmenting proven in-house supports through the creation of an additional Tenant Support Worker position within TBDSSAB.

The Lodge on Dawson

The Lodge on Dawson

Coordinated Housing Access Table (CHAT)

- CHAT connects individuals to the right housing and supports as efficiently as possible based on their preferences and level of need.

- Standardized intake and assessment process.

- Information sharing in real-time within a community that adopts uniform prioritization policies and coordinating referral processes.

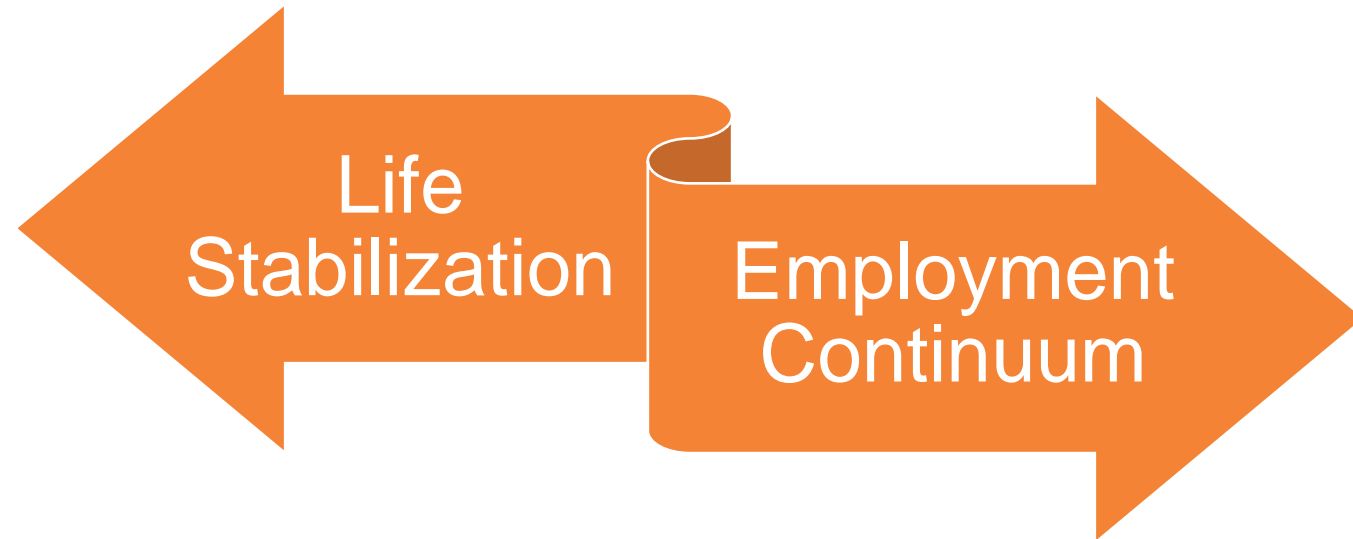70 Referrals

Situation Tables

- TBDSSAB is active with Situation Tables with community partners for wraparound interventions to mitigate situations of acutely elevated risks.

- TBDSSAB participates with the following Situation Tables:
  - City of Thunder Bay
  - Nipigon / Red Rock
  - Northshore – Marathon

TBDSSAB recognized for top 3 agencies assisting with majority of cases in the past 18 months.

Social Assistance Caseworker

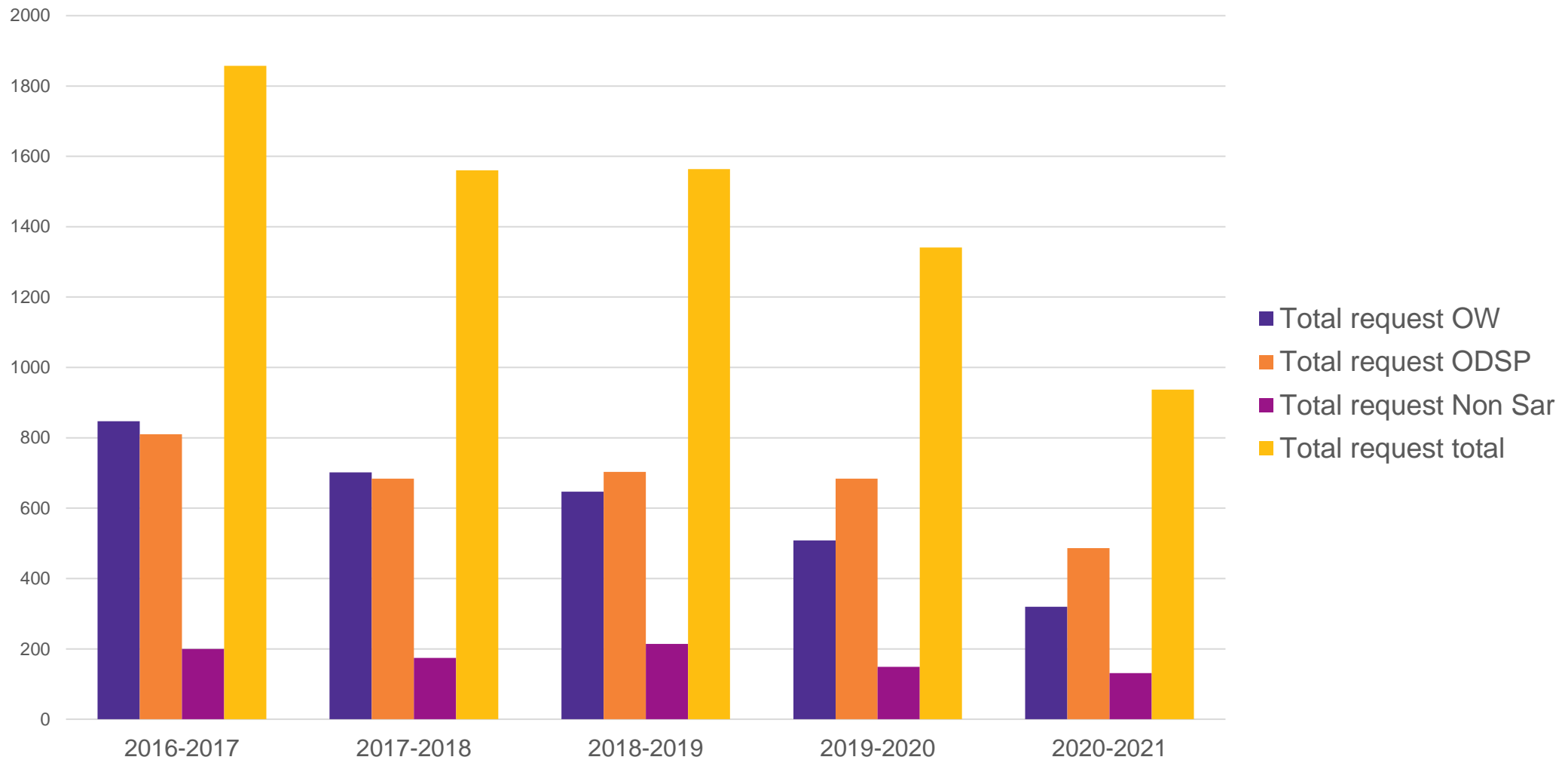Life Stabilization ⟷ Employment Continuum

Housing Security Fund (HSF)

- Intended to promote housing stability and to prevent homelessness by assisting low-income households facing eviction and/or service disconnection (heat and utilities).

- Applicants do not need to be on the Social Housing Waitlist to receive HSF funding.

- Initiatives include a rental arrears fund and a tenant pest management readiness fund.

Housing Security Fund (HSF)

Reaching Home – Rural and Remote

- Reaching Home is a 100% federally-funded program to address homelessness.

- The Housing Assistance Program (HAP) through Reaching Home aims to assist individuals who are homeless or who are at the risk of homelessness residing within the District of Thunder Bay.

- The goal of the program is to address the cycle of homelessness in rural and remote communities.

Reaching Home – Designated Communities

Designated communities will develop a community plan in collaboration with stakeholders and the Community Advisory Board.

One-time Provincial and Federal Initiatives

Social Services Relief Fund

	SSRF Phase 1	SSRF Phase 2	SSRF Holdback	SSRF Phase 3 (YTD)	Total
Capital	-	1,158,138	1,781,300	-	2,939,438
Community Support Applications	216,784	58,910	-	309,770	585,464
Isolation Hotel	419,995	503,828	-	227,753	1,151,576
Overflow Hotel	116,019	111,981	-	69,497	297,497
Supports to Housing Providers	26,873	-	-	-	26,873
Rent Supports	98,698	173,592	-	556,232	828,522
TBayTel Phone Services	13,919	-	-	-	13,919
Communications & Technology	11,867	6,824	-	-	18,691
Security	172,393	115,228	-	206,814	494,435
Additional Cleaning and PPE	78,080	8,959	-	49,565	136,604
Administration	33,672	55,182	55,000	42,589	186,443
Subtotal	**$ 1,188,300**	**$ 2,192,642**	**$ 1,836,300**	**$ 1,462,220**	**$ 6,679,462**
Recoveries					
Anishnawbe Mushkiki	-	(55,000)	-	-	(55,000)
Reaching Home	-	(24,319)	-	-	(24,319)
CHPI	-	(272,864)	-	-	(272,864)
Total	**$ 1,188,300**	**$ 1,840,459**	**$ 1,836,300**	**$ 1,462,220**	**$ 6,327,279**

Federal Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)

The Rapid Housing Initiative aims to create new affordable housing for people who are vulnerable.

Questions? Comments?

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