



## Durham Region Winter Warming Overview

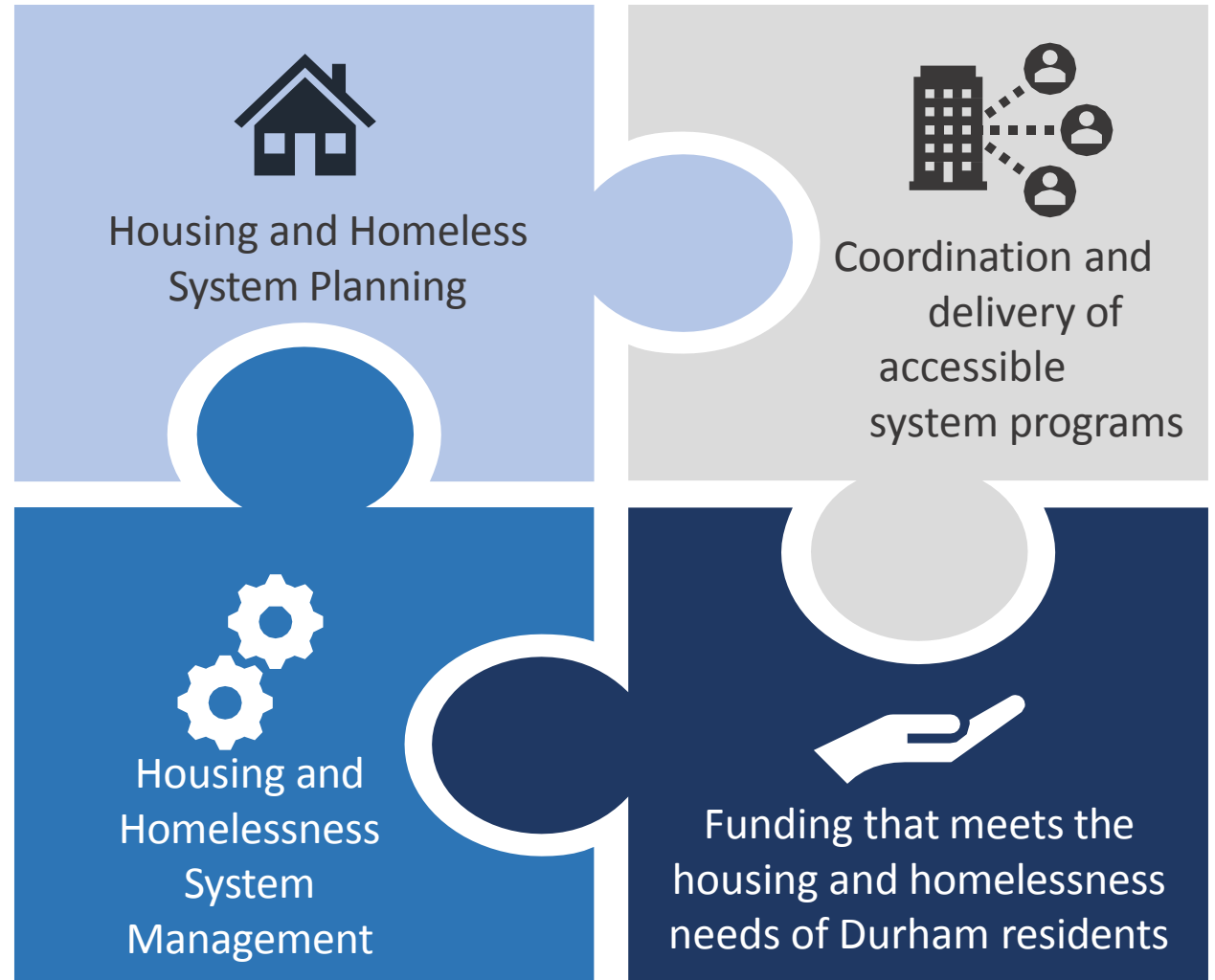
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# The Role of the Region of Durham in Addressing Homelessness

The Region of Durham is legislated by the province of Ontario as a **Service System Manager (SSM)** for Housing and Homelessness through the Housing Services Act and is the designated **Community Entity** by the federal government for the homelessness system.



# Winter Warming Centre

**A Winter Warming Centre** is a temporary safe space that provides a warm place for individuals experiencing homelessness to seek protection during cold weather conditions. Winter Warming Centres are typically open during the winter months (November – March) when temperatures drop to dangerous levels. Services offered at winter warming centers often include:

- **Shelter:** A warm, safe place to stay, overnight
- **Basic Necessities:** Providing essentials such as hot meals, snacks, beverages, blankets, and warm clothing.
- **Hygiene Facilities:** Access to washroom and possible showers.





# Winter Warming 2023-2024 Highlights

## Accessible & Inclusive

- **150 overnight** safe spaces available 7 days a week, plus additional spaces in Durham's shelter system, including for medical needs.
- **Pets welcomed.**
- **Cots/chairs** for individuals and couples, with oversized options available.

## Coordinated Access

- More individuals added to the **By-Name list.**
- Winter Warming Centres **connected** underserved individuals to the **homelessness system.**
- **Coordination** between agencies eliminated pre-opening lineups.

## Partnership & Engagement

- **Local businesses donated** meals, snacks, and winter care packages.
- **Coordinated communication between** Winter Warming Centres and the Regional Street Outreach Team.
- The Outreach Team **provided transportation** and follow-up support to individuals.

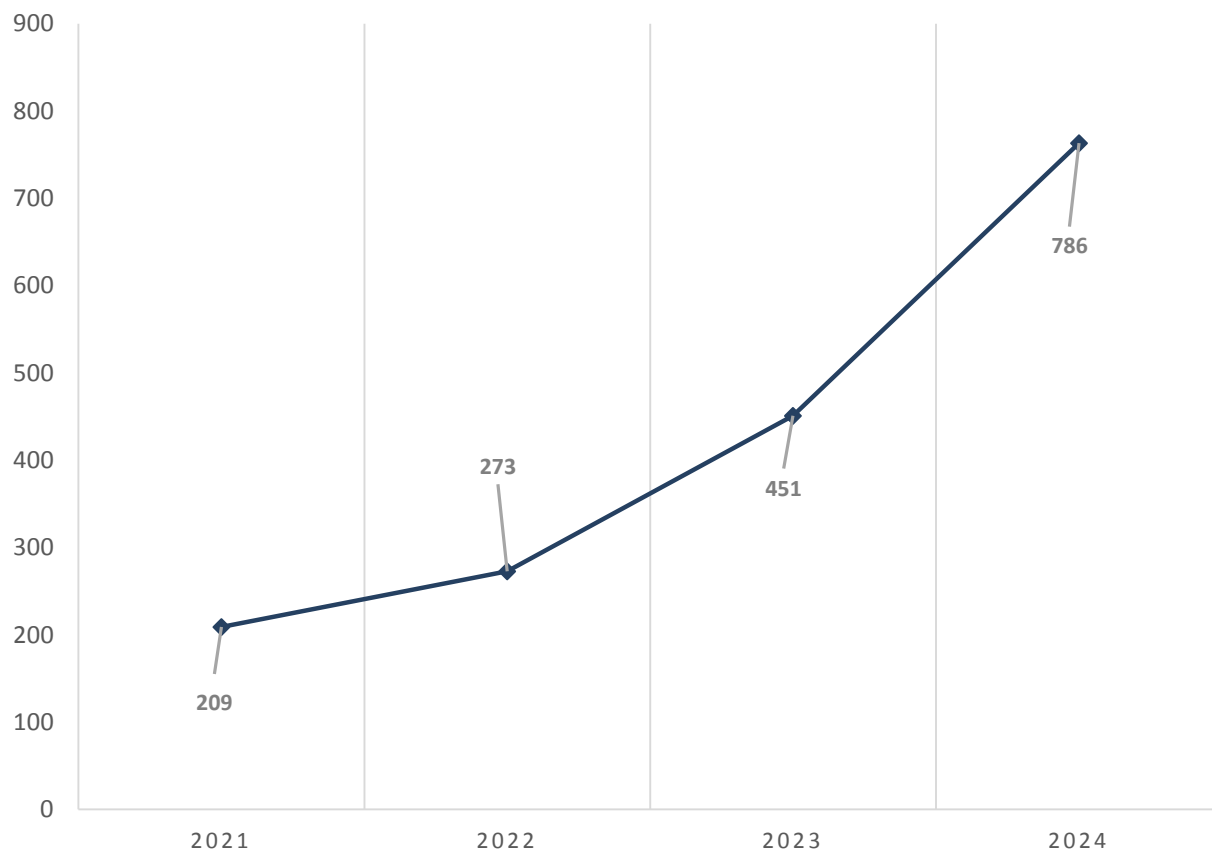
# Winter Warming Lessons Learned

- **Accessible space** with washrooms and showers within each community
- Staying open 7 days a week regardless of the temperature
- Winter Warming offered in all local area municipalities
- Increased access to transportation options between winter warming centres
- More daytime programming in some Durham communities

# Homelessness Numbers

August 2024 By-Name List

Annual Number of People on the By-Name List  
2021 – 2024



At least  
**786**

Over  
**370** with  
Mid to High  
Acuity

## Municipality Breakdown: Actively Homeless August 2024

Ajax: 238  
Clarington: 27  
North Durham (Brock, Scugog, Uxbridge): 27  
Oshawa: 360  
Pickering: 25  
Whitby: 86  
\*Other/ Unknown: 23

Refers to people who may have not been living in Durham but have a meaningful connection to Durham, or who are working with the homelessness support system to complete intake information.

# Shelter System: January 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30, 2024



Shelters in Durham Region have been at capacity for over 2 years

**190**



Beds in Durham's  
Shelter System

**114**



Motel  
admissions/stays

**3,987**



Individuals were turned away due  
to lack of available shelter beds

# Durham Region Street Outreach Team

January 4 – September 30, 2024



Total Interactions



Warm referrals and collaborative service navigation supports



Service requests from Lakeridge Health Hospital



Service requests from Durham Region Transit



# Clarington's Unique Challenges

## Geographic Spread of Unsheltered Population:

- Clarington covers a large area with hidden homelessness (couch surfing, encampments, sleeping in cars).
- A centralized service last year led to more visible homelessness downtown, showing the need for a better-located facility.

## Limited Daytime Supports:

- Local churches provide meals and drop-ins
- Salvation Army Food Pantry and Coffee Hub
- John Howard Society recently added as an Access Point for Clarington
- Bowmanville Library

# Why 181 Liberty Street South is Ideal

## Building Highlights:

- Fully accessible
- Close to downtown Bowmanville for walkable access to food banks and support, but not in the heart of downtown
- Smaller office spaces for families or individuals with unique needs
- Multiple washrooms and a **shower on-site**
- No major concerns raised by Clarington Emergency and Fire Services
- Minor updates needed for safety (Fire Code and Building Code compliance)



# Why 181 Liberty Street South is Ideal for the Winter Warming

## Regional Responsibility:

- Building Preparation: The Region will ensure the building is ready for use and make any needed adjustments.
- Operations: The Region will manage operational expenses through a service provider.
- Responsiveness: The Region in partnership with Clarington will support and address concerns and challenges.

## In Conclusion:

This site offers a **safe, accessible, and appropriately** located space for Clarington's Winter Warming Centre.



# Questions

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