Region of Waterloo

The Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Progress Update for Council

Oct. 7, 2025

Our Path to Date

April 2024

- Regional Council approved PECH and invested $10.2M to prioritize this work.
- The PECH as endorsed by Council includes 30 actions.

Oct. 2024

- Staff returned to Council with a comprehensive funding and advocacy strategy to complete the work.
- A net new operating budget investment of $4.6M was made by Regional Council, bringing the total investment to $14.8M for 2025.

May 2025

- Staff provided an update to Council on PECH investment and shared the need for significant ongoing investments to end chronic homelessness in Waterloo Region.
- This was validated by the 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) count which found that 2371 were experiencing homelessness in October 2024.

Progress on PECH Priorities

- **70%** (21/30) of our PECH actions are in progress.
- **100%** of our strategic focus areas are in progress.



Collaboration Across the Continuum



We are joined by members of our PECH Coordination Team

- Kristine Allison – Engage Rural
- Marjorie Knight – Rhythm and Blue's Cambridge
- Fadhilah Balogun - African Women's Alliance of Waterloo Region

Transformative Systems Change

- The PECH addresses the root causes of homelessness by changing the structure, values, and relationships within our complex system.

- The all-of-community approach can be challenging to measure as:
  - Large scale systems change is not linear;
  - It takes time;
  - And there are many ways to count and track experiences of homelessness, system responsiveness, and housing outcomes.
- We will outline some ways in which systems change shows signs of growth, where challenges remain, and how this both validates and informs investment and resourcing priorities.

Signs of System Growth

Better Systems Equity

120 shelter and transitional housing beds for women and gender diverse individuals

166 PECH rent supplements distributed using a collective priority approach

Consistency in winter warming support with overnight spaces for up to 70 people

Fundamental Structural Change

We're analyzing and building frameworks so our service operations all align to ending chronic homelessness

15 projects launched that co-creators and lived experts pitched and prioritized for resources

Transformed Relationships

Launched the Co-ordination Team to ensure we remain aligned on our goals

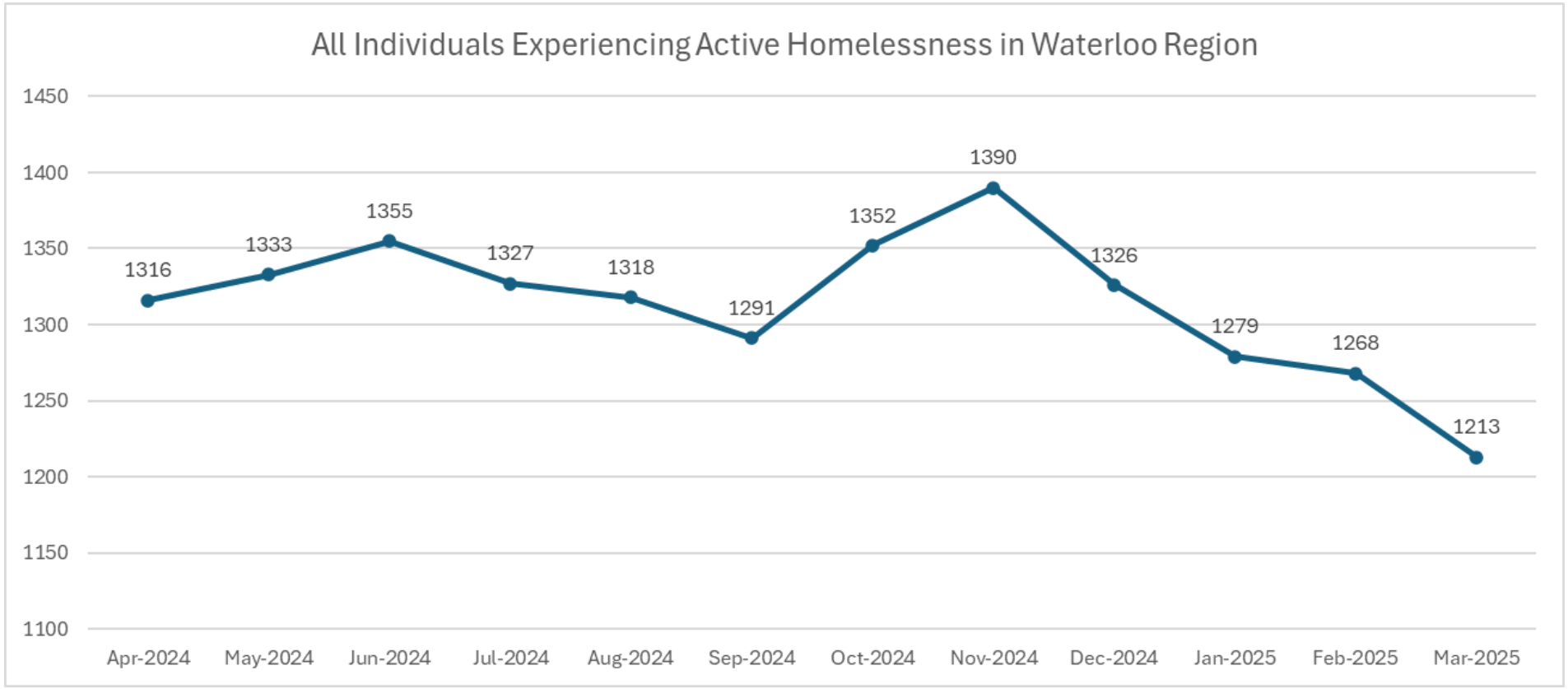
Working together to ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Signs of Systems Responsiveness

- We are on track to see more housing outcomes for people experiencing chronic homelessness this year than we have historically achieved with **116 housing outcomes from January to July 2025.**

- While chronic homelessness on our PATHS list has increased by 90 people since April 2024, we have also seen an **8% decrease in the overall number of individuals experiencing homelessness.**

Overall number of individuals experiencing active homelessness, 2024-2025 fiscal year

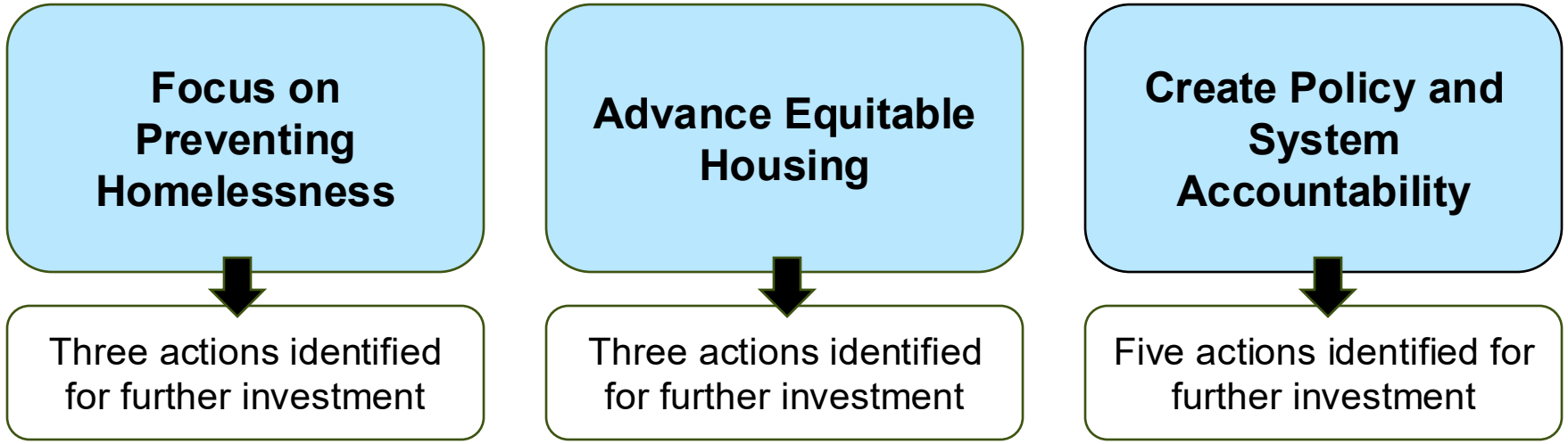


Signs of Systems Responsiveness

- We are also seeing **downward trends** in overall homelessness among single adults, including adult women and men and we are **seeing stability** among key demographics such as **veterans and youth.**
- Although chronic homelessness has increased, investment into the PECH has allowed us to address emerging challenges and root causes of homelessness.

Investment Alignment

- Co-creators worked with staff to prioritize the current top three strategic focus areas where investment would amplify our impact at this point in our progress.



- The result of this process is consistent with the PECH Investment Strategy. It reflects a collective shift to an upstream focus, aligned with transformational systems change

Looking forward to Spring 2026

- Updates from our inflow, active and outflow action groups committed to the goals of making sure chronic homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring
- A completed Older Adults Strategy
- Phase one completed of our Rural Strategy
- PECH Data Strategy in action
- More insights into moments of systems change