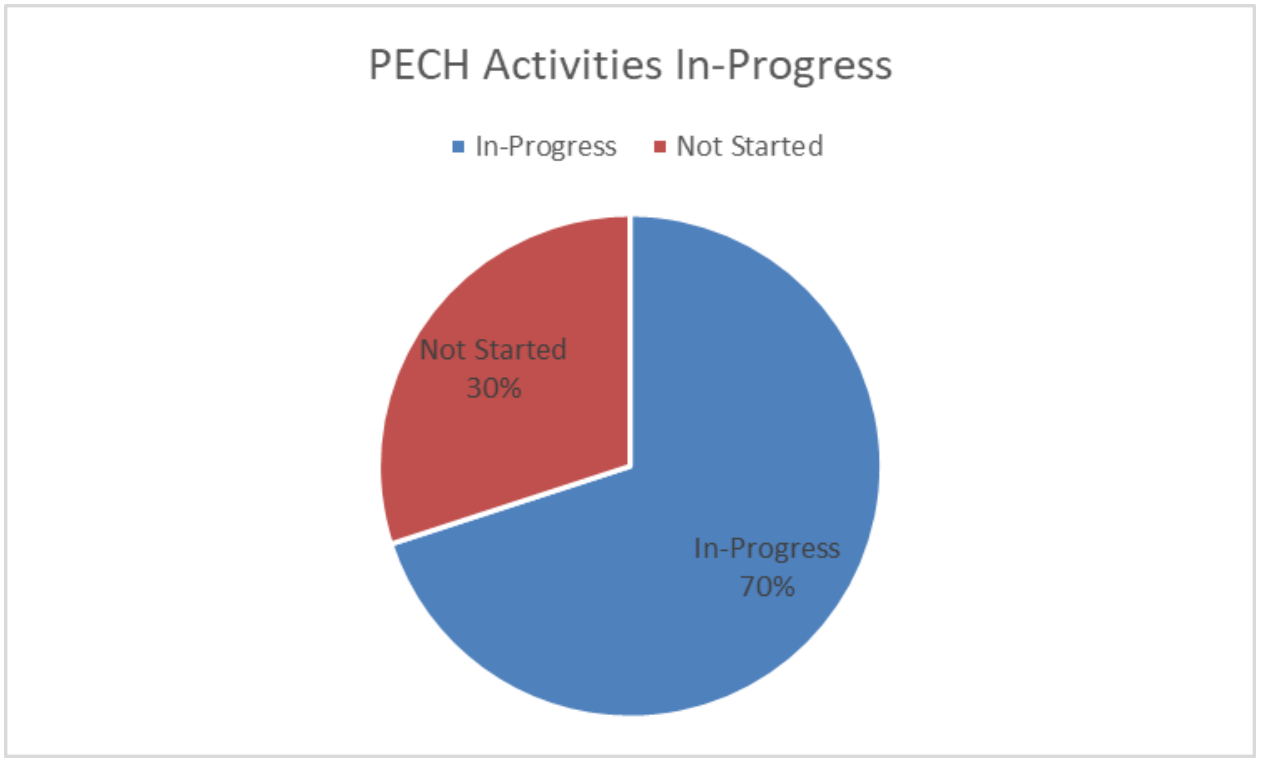
Appendix B: PECH Activity Progress

Purpose

This appendix will illustrate the progress of the PECH actions as laid out in the endorsed PECH report (CSD-HOU-24-006). It will show that 21 of 30 actions are currently underway in some format. The majority of these have received at least some funding. However, some have begun without funding available by leveraging existing resources within the housing system. Further, it includes the most recent update on the priorities of the Co-Creators and commentary on alignment with work being funded and implemented.

PECH Actions Progress Update

Of all 30 actions included in the PECH, 21 are currently underway in some capacity. The table below lays out the funding status and progress update on each action. For those in progress, in most cases, funding has been partially secured. In others, annualized funding has been secured to fully fund the action as it goes forward. Actions that have not started are generally not yet funded, or the capacity of the housing system is unable to support it currently without further resources and capacity.



Decisions on what actions are proceeding are informed by resource availability, including existing resources, new anchor investments, and the capacity of the system. They are also informed by priorities established through engagement with staff, community, lived experts, and co-creators.

In a recent evaluation activity, the Co-Creators were asked to prioritize where further funding is critical to our success among the seven strategic focus areas identified in PECH's Navigating Functional Zero report. These priorities align with where investments are being allocated and expended, and where further need exists. The results further highlighted consistencies with the PECH Funding Strategy and that the community remains committed to engaging in transformational systems change.

The top priorities identified by the Co-Creators were:

1. Focus on Preventing Homelessness
2. Advance Equitable Housing
3. Create Policy and System Accountability

Table 1: PECH Actions & Funding Status

PECH Activity	Funding Status	Progress
1.1 Revise Homelessness & Supportive Housing Frameworks to align with Housing First and Housing as a Human Right principles, emphasizing cultural competency, anti-oppression, and GBA+ lenses.	Fully funded	Ongoing - Continue implementation
1.2 Implement a housing-focused Street Outreach Framework and Human Rights Based Approach encampment response protocol to aid those experiencing unsheltered homelessness	Partial	Additional funding required to advance
1.3 Apply an intersectional gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) lens to homelessness prevention policy and strategies to ensure equitable housing outcomes are advanced for women, and gender-diverse individuals and communities.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation
1.4 Expand the local Coordinated Access System (PATHS) to enhance integration and coordination between health, addictions, mental health, acquired brain injury, justice, income support, child welfare, and other critical system partnerships to increase service pathways, service connections, and permanent housing outcomes.	Not funded	Resources required
1.5 Implement a Housing Stability System Workforce Strategy. We will advance salary and benefit compensation, employee well-being and retention, as well as training and professional development. *This strategy will support community partners and service providers across the housing stability system.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation
1.6 Launch a Housing Stability System Data Strategy to monitor and track progress on ending chronic homelessness and establish data-informed decision-making processes. This resource will also be leveraged to support advocacy efforts and inform our community of the realities of homelessness.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation

1.7 Implement a User Experience Strategy, across the region, to ensure system service users are supported in all Housing Stability System programs and services	Not funded	Resources required
1.8 Create a climate and extreme weather protocol based on a human rights approach.	Partial	Additional funding required to advance
2.1 Establish an All of Community Leadership Table to lead the implementation of The Plan to End Chronic Homelessness recommendations and perform ongoing assessments of activities and progress towards our community's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2030.	Fully funded	Ongoing - Continue implementation
2.2 Develop a comprehensive and integrative Lived Expertise process, including establishing a Lived Expert Working Group, with representation from across the region, to support ongoing learning and system reviews of organizational and system policies and processes.	Fully funded	Ongoing - Continue implementation
2.3 Establish REDI-specific partnerships, strategies, and funding streams to advance equitable homelessness response supports and initiatives to build capacity.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation
2.4 Establish an annual funding application and review process for community organizations, across the region, to support emerging ideas and prototypes to respond to homelessness.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation
3.1 Identify surplus/underutilized land(s) with the intention of creating more housing options and respond to unsheltered experiences of homelessness, across the region. We will do this through partnerships with area municipalities/townships, not-for-profits, faith-based organizations, and postsecondary institutions. (LE Prototyping Cohort, 2024)	Partial	Additional funding required to advance
3.2 Establish specific health-related coordination efforts, processes, and supports with local health system partners to create a more integrated health and homelessness system of care. This includes embedding the work of the PECH within the local Ontario Health Teams, Public Health programs, local hospitals, mental health and addictions providers, community health programs, and other health system programs across the region.	Partial	Additional funding required to advance
3.3 Align the PECH and related initiatives with local resettlement organizations and services to support Newcomers to Canada experiencing homelessness across the region.	Not funded	Resources required
4.1 Implement Indigenous homelessness and Indigenous-focused reconciliation strategies, led by Indigenous groups and leaders, to enhance permanent housing outcomes for Indigenous communities and support generational healing, guided by Key Concerns identified through Wellbeing Waterloo, Truth and Reconciliation Commission	Not funded	Resources required

Calls to Action, The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls to Justice, and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples		
4.2 Expand on use of existing community housing stock to increase permanent housing outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness; including the use of community housing units to support people who have recovered from their experience of homelessness to leave Supportive Housing.	Partial	Additional funding required to advance
4.3 Create new permanent Affordable and Supportive Housing to meet current and future housing needs to end chronic homelessness. This includes deeply therapeutic and harm reduction-focused Supportive Housing to ensure those with the greatest depth of need are supported to stay housed.	Partial	Additional funding required to advance
4.4 Create an Older Adults Strategy, embedded within the broader PECH, to respond to the unique needs of older adults experiencing homelessness, including but not limited to addressing lack of social connection and income support for older adults experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness due to a lack of affordability in the private market and appropriate housing options.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation
4.5 Co-Create with rural based agencies a Rural Homelessness strategy and actions, embedded within the border PECH, to address the unique needs of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in each of the four Townships.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation
4.6 Implement alongside system partners, a housing focused strategy with dedicated resources to end Veteran homelessness.	Fully funded	Ongoing - Continue implementation
5.1 Reduce inflow into chronic homelessness by working with area municipalities to implement policies and programs focused on mitigating the loss of affordable housing in the private market, while continuing to incentivize affordable housing development. (LE Prototyping Cohort, 2024) Expand on inflow prevention and eviction prevention work through the expansion of the rent fund, eviction prevention (from all housing including supportive and community housing) and rehousing services to significantly reduce inflow into chronic homelessness.	Partial	Additional funding required to advance
5.2 Create a Youth Strategy, embedded within the broader PECH, to respond to the unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness and develop upstream approaches that target youth at risk of experiencing homelessness and end generational experiences of homelessness.	Not funded	Resources required
5.3 Expand and create new multi-service agency housing hubs across Waterloo Region to ensure universal access to community-based supports that increase housing stability	Not funded	Resources required

and for public spaces to be readily available for individuals experiencing homelessness outside of shelter operating hours.		
6.1 Launch comprehensive public engagement and education initiative targeting partners, government, businesses, and residents to raise awareness of homelessness challenges and responses.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation
6.2 Implement a comprehensive Housing Stability System Data Strategy to monitor and track progress on ending chronic homelessness and establish data-informed decision-making processes. This resource will also be leveraged to support advocacy efforts and inform our community of the realities of homelessness.	Partial	Ongoing - Continue implementation
6.3 Establish an ongoing memorializing process for those lost to homelessness. This includes partnering with interest-holders in the Housing Stability System, Lived Experts, Mutual Aid Groups, Unsheltered Communities, and the Coroner's Office	Not funded	Resources required
7.1 Strengthen partnerships with school boards, local universities and colleges to ensure that professors and academics in multiple fields are engaged in developing upstream education programs on the risks of homelessness.	Not funded	Resources required
7.2 Align the All of Community Leadership Model and PECH activities with existing addictions, substance use, and harm reduction community led initiatives to ensure integrative supports for individuals experiencing homelessness active in their substance-use. This includes alignment and integration with Public Health, and other community-based services and supports across the region.	Partial	Additional funding required to advance
7.3 Develop and implement a coordinated advocacy and inter-governmental relations plan to strengthen a multi-tiered response to chronic homelessness.	Partial	Resources required

Investment Constraints

Overall, there has been significant progress and impact made with the funding that has been approved to the PECH through Regional Council. The constraints around funding remain, however, and will continue to impact the trajectory to functional zero if not addressed and may inhibit the ability for projects to achieve their impact goals. To end chronic homelessness and continue to mitigate other forms of homelessness, further investment from all levels of government is needed. In the meantime, current funding levels indeed show important impact and outputs as shown here and in Appendix A. Further, it empowers the system to move towards systems transformation work, as described in Appendix C.