



# Committee of the Whole

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**Meeting Date:** April 14, 2026

**Submitted by:** Joe Winsler, Director of Human Services

**Subject:** Connecting Journey's Homelessness Prevention Program Update 2026

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## **BACKGROUND:**

In recent years, Middlesex County has continued to see a noticeable increase in the number of residents experiencing homelessness or living in unstable housing situations. As a result, the demand for housing supports and related services has grown across the region.

Through the provincially funded Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), hundreds of individuals and families in Middlesex County have received assistance aimed at stabilizing their housing situations. The program provides a range of supports intended to help people maintain or secure safe and stable housing.

The Connecting Journey's programs focus on both prevention and response. It assists individuals and families who are at risk of losing their housing, as well as those who are already experiencing homelessness. By offering housing assistance, financial supports, and connections to community services, the program works to improve access to safe, suitable, and affordable housing while helping residents move toward long-term housing stability.

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **Connecting Journey's: Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) Funding**

In 2026, Middlesex County Human Services will deliver programs and services aligned with the four core service categories outlined in the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) guidelines:

- Emergency Shelter Solutions
- Community Outreach and Support Services
- Housing Assistance
- Supportive Housing

Through HPP funding, the County will support a range of coordinated programs and initiatives aimed at preventing and addressing homelessness across Middlesex under the umbrella of Connecting Journey's. These include the Middlesex Accommodations Program (MAP), community education and training initiatives, food security supports, and emergency hotel and motel placements. Additional supports will include responses to extreme weather events (e.g., cold and heat alerts), as well as the continuation of flexible financial assistance through the Whatever It Takes Fund, which assists with rental and utility arrears, last month's rent, and other housing stabilization needs.

The County's 2026 HPP Investment Plan has been submitted to the City of London, acting as the Service System Manager, and is pending review and final provincial approval. In the interim, programs and services continue to operate to ensure uninterrupted support for residents, consistent with prior approvals and established service levels.

The development of the 2026 Investment Plan was informed through engagement with community partners and individuals with lived experience, ensuring that funding priorities reflect current local needs, emerging pressures, and opportunities to strengthen the homelessness response system in Middlesex County.

### **Middlesex Accommodations Program (MAP)**

The Middlesex Accommodations Program (MAP) continues to serve as a key component of the County's homelessness response system, providing temporary accommodation and wraparound supports when no other housing options are available. The program operates through a collaborative partnership with the Countryside Motel, Canadian Mental Health Association – Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services (CMHA TVAMHS), Middlesex Community Navigators, Middlesex Human Services, and many other community partners. Middlesex London Paramedic Service (MLPS) community paramedic will be on site certain days of the week to provide basic medical assessment to help inform healthcare decisions. The community paramedic will provide guidance and support in navigating our healthcare system

In 2025, MAP supported 88 individuals from 75 households, including 12 dependent children, helping to prevent unsheltered homelessness across Middlesex County. Clients ranged in age from 18 to 87, with an average age of 44, and an average length of stay of approximately 71 days. Outcomes demonstrate that 52% of participants were successfully supported in securing housing. A smaller proportion (14%) returned to homelessness or precarious housing, often due to behavioural challenges, property-related issues, or limited engagement with supports. Additionally, 18% of individuals had previously accessed the program, reflecting the ongoing and complex needs within the community.

For the 2026–2027 program year, the County will continue to contract CMHA TVAMHS to deliver direct client supports and administer program funding, including accommodations at the Countryside Motel. A total of \$628,896 has been allocated to support program operations, including staffing and accommodation costs, for the period of April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027. CMHA TVAMHS will continue to work closely with program partners to ensure coordinated, client-centered service delivery.

The ongoing success of this program is grounded in strong, collaborative partnerships between CMHA, Human Services, and a network of dedicated community partners.

### **Housing Stability Action Plan (HSAP)**

In collaboration with the City of London, as Service System Manager, Middlesex County staff have updated the Housing Stability Action Plan (HSAP) for the 2026–2031 period. The updated plan will serve as a strategic roadmap to guide the delivery of effective, timely, and targeted programs and services to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

To support the finalization of the plan, the County is undertaking a community engagement process to validate priorities and ensure the plan reflects local needs. Middlesex County residents, Council members, and community partners are invited to provide feedback through an [online survey](#) available on the County's website or by attending one of several in-person open houses.

#### **Open House Details** (6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.):

- Dorchester – April 9 – Dorchester Library, 2123 Dorchester Rd.
- Lucan – April 13 – Lucan Community Memorial Centre, 263 Main St.
- Parkhill – April 14 – Parkhill Library, 229B Main St.
- Strathroy – April 15 – Strathroy West Middlesex Memorial Centre, 334 Metcalfe St. W
- Glencoe – April 16 – Glencoe Library, 123 McKellar St.

Additional information, including access to the survey, is available on the [County's website](#).

The final HSAP plan will be brought to County Council in May 2026.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**



The Middlesex Accommodations Program (MAP), including the 2026–2027 agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services, is included within the County's approved 2026 Human Services budget under the Community Well-Being & Support Initiatives program area.

As outlined in the approved budget, total program funding of approximately \$1.27 million is allocated, with specific program expenditures (including the MAP contract valued at \$628,896) funded through the Province of Ontario’s Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP), administered by the City of London as Service System Manager.

Funding is provided through a combination of base allocation and application-based funding streams, in accordance with By-law No. 7364, the Homelessness Prevention Cost Apportionment & Agency Agreement (CMSM).

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC FOCUS:**

This report aligns with the following Strategic Focus, Goals, or Objectives:

Strategic Priority	Goal	Objectives
Collaboration & Partnerships 	Strengthen collaboration with local municipalities and regional partners to improve economic efficiency, enhance service delivery, and support regional development in alignment with community priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimize service delivery through inter-municipal collaboration and shared services to improve efficiency and seamless operations.</li> <li>• Improve communication and transparency through open engagement, accessible information, and informed decision-making.</li> </ul>
Adaptability and Agility 	Modernize the County’s administrative capabilities to strengthen decision-making, improve service delivery, and achieve better community outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transform, modernize and continuously improve administrative systems and processes to increase efficiency and enhance the experience of residents and partners.</li> </ul>

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** the Connecting Journey’s Homelessness Prevention Program Update 2026 report be received for information;

**AND THAT** the Director of Human Services be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation in a form satisfactory to the County Solicitor;

**Attachments:**

- Appendix A – Agreement to support the Middlesex Accommodation Program – Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services