WHAT IS THE TOWNSHIP'S ROLE IN HOUSING?

Let's Talk Housing: Community Discussion Guide

Township of Centre Wellington Housing Action Plan

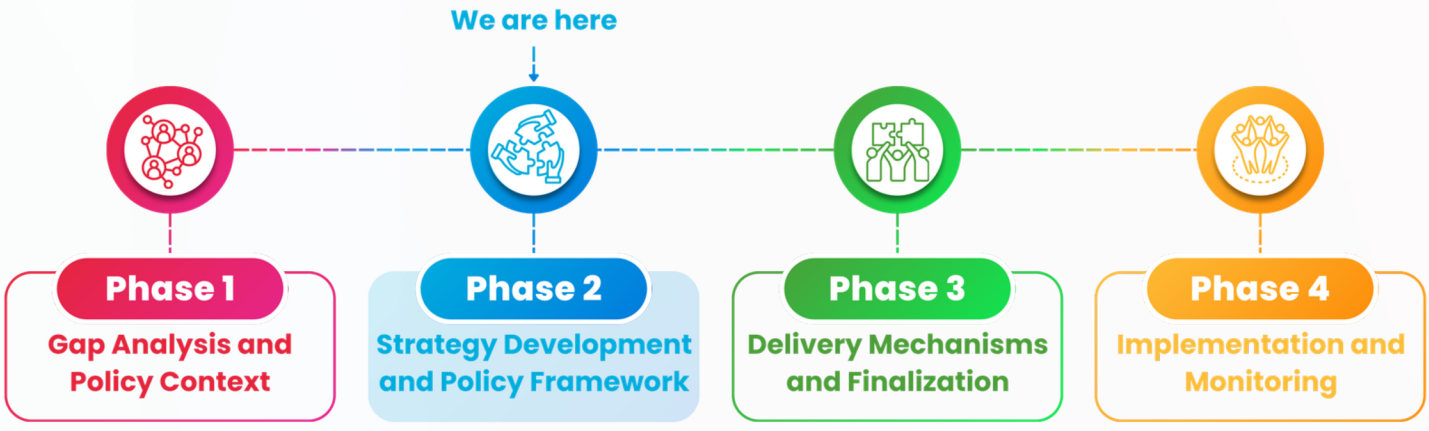
The Township of Centre Wellington is developing a **Housing Action Plan** to guide how the community responds to current and future housing needs. As our community grows and changes, residents of all ages, incomes, and life stages should be able to find housing that meets their needs. Housing influences:

- **Where and how people live**
- **Access to work, school, and services**
- **Connections to neighbours and community**
- **Whether residents can remain in the Township as their needs change**

Providing a range of housing options helps create a complete, inclusive, and resilient community.

This guide is part of a series exploring key housing topics. Your ideas and experiences will help shape the Housing Action Plan and identify ways the Township can support housing that is more attainable, diverse, and responsive to community needs.

Housing Action Plan Process

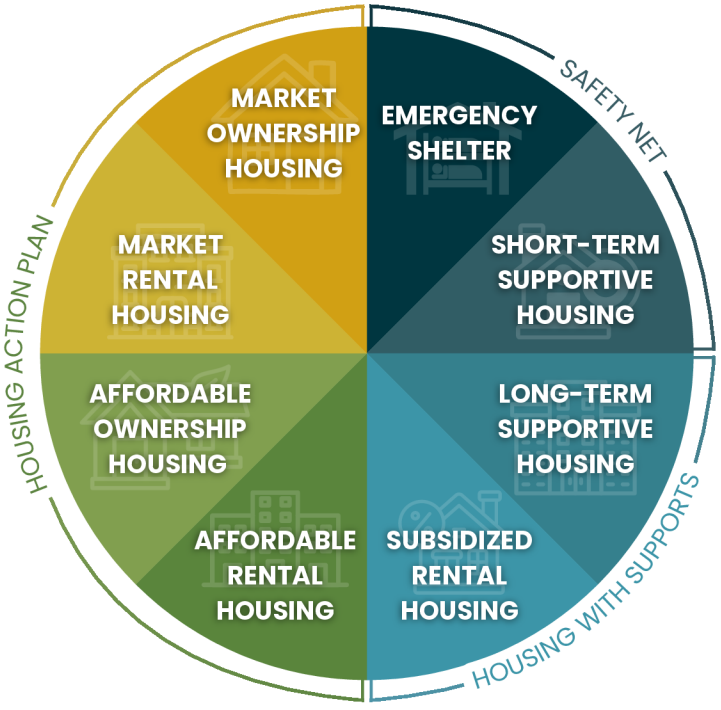


Housing is a Shared Responsibility

Housing is shaped by many people, organizations, developers, and different levels of government. No single group controls every part of the housing system, as housing is a collaborative effort.

The Housing Wheelhouse shows the different types of housing and supports that people may need throughout their lives. A person may move between rental housing, home ownership, supportive housing, or emergency housing as their income, health, family, or circumstances change.

There is no single path through the wheel. Home ownership is not the right or final goal for everyone. **A strong housing system includes a range of options that are affordable, suitable, accessible, and supportive.**



The Housing Action Plan will focus on the parts of the wheel where Township tools can have influence. This includes affordable and market rental and ownership housing. Other parts of the housing system, such as emergency shelter, supportive housing, and subsidized housing, are led mainly by Wellington County, housing providers, and other community partners.

What can the Township do?

The Township plays an important role in creating the conditions that support housing. The Township can:

Set land use policies through the Official Plan and Zoning By-law

Use zoning rules to allow diverse housing and guide where and what types of homes can be built

Review development applications and issue building permits

Plan for complete communities, growth, infrastructure, and services

Offer grants or other incentives through approved programs

Use Township-owned land for housing opportunities, where appropriate

Improve municipal processes and help remove barriers to housing

Work with partners and advocate to other levels of government

These tools can help make it easier to plan and build a wider range of housing. However, the Township does not build or operate housing itself.

The Housing Action Plan will help identify where the Township can have the greatest impact and which municipal tools may be most effective.



Who Else has a Role?

Addressing housing needs requires many groups to work together.

Wellington County

The County is responsible for many housing and homelessness services. This includes emergency shelter, supportive and subsidized housing, tenant supports, and other housing programs.

Provincial and Federal Governments

Other levels of government set housing laws and policies and provide funding, financing, and housing programs.

Builders, Developers, and Landowners

The private sector helps finance, design, build, own, and operate much of the housing in the community.

Housing Providers and Community Organizations

Non-profit, co-operative, and community organizations may build or operate affordable and supportive housing and provide services to residents.

Each group has different responsibilities, resources, and tools. Working together can help create a stronger and more complete housing system.



How can the Township Respond?

Lead	Enable
	
Create and pilot new projects, explore innovative housing solutions, and update local plans and zoning rules.	Remove barriers, improve approval processes, and allow more types of housing.
Incentivize	**Advocate**
	
Offer grants or other supports where they are approved and financially possible.	Ask other levels of government for funding, programs, and policies that respond to local needs.

The Township cannot address housing challenges on its own. It does not control interest rates, construction costs, market home prices, rents, or funding provided by other governments.

The Housing Action Plan will focus on practical actions within the Township's role and clearly identify where partnerships or support from others are needed.

Get Involved!

We want to learn from you! Share your thoughts and help shape the future of housing in the Township.

Complete the survey by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.connectcw.ca/housingactionplan