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Study Recommends an Integrated Homeless Hub for Nipissing District

North Bay, ON: A review of the homelessness system in the Nipissing District recommends an integrated Low Barrier Shelter and Homeless Hub located in North Bay that focuses on helping high-needs individuals obtain permanent housing.

The *Homelessness System Review – Indicators and Alternatives Report and Hub Feasibility Study Report* was commissioned by the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) in the fall of 2023, along with the *Housing Needs and Supply Study*.

The *Homelessness System Review – Indicators and Alternatives Report and Hub Feasibility Study Report* had a scope that included a review of the current system to identify gaps, cultural equity, barriers, and opportunities. A comparative analysis of best practices models in other communities was completed to develop a 24/7 business model for district-wide homelessness services, including a “Homeless Hub”. This model aligns with the district’s goal of ending chronic homelessness and provides an analysis of pathways to services including emergency shelters, warming sites, food security and outreach services district-wide. The study also included details of the costs and resources required for planning, implementation, and operation, as well as recommendations on how to sustain funding for operations.

The scope of the *Housing Needs and Supply Study* included analysis of the demographic characteristics of Nipissing District and the respective 11 municipalities, two First Nations and two unincorporated areas that make up the district, and input received from residents to determine the housing needs in all of these areas. The study includes a review of the current housing supply, and identifies the pressures, gaps or shortfalls between the housing needs, supply, and demand. The study outlines the barriers in meeting the housing needs and provides strategies to remove these barriers. The study also forecasts the demand for housing in the entire Nipissing District by unit size, price, and whether homes are rented or owned, and helps identify the prioritization of housing needs across the geographic area.

“These studies provide us with a great deal of insight into the current state and future needs of the District, and the DNSSAB is excited to closely examine the recommendations and develop strategies to implement them,” says Board Chair, Mark King.

Both Studies will be used to inform the next 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan for the District. Coupled with the results of the current Request for Expression of Interest [RFEI 2024-17: Affordable Housing Development](#), the DNSSAB will be well positioned to quickly respond to funding opportunities and applications.

DNSSAB Staff will be taking time to fully review both studies and create an action plan to address the recommendations of each. The full reports can be found [here](#).

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