



Briefing Note: Ending Youth Homelessness in Ottawa by 2030

Overview

Mayor Sutcliffe has pledged to end youth homelessness by 2030. This plan defines “ending” as reaching **functional zero**—where every youth who needs housing and support can access it immediately, and new inflows are prevented or diverted effectively.

Local Context

- **Estimated youth homelessness:** ~350 youth on a single night (12% of 2024 PiT count).
- High prevalence of **invisible disorders** (mental health, neurodiversity, substance use).
- Youth homelessness is often hidden and undercounted.

Strategic Pillars

1. **Prevention** – Family mediation, school-based supports, rent assistance.
2. **Diversion & Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)** – Emergency alternatives, short-term rental help.
3. **Permanent Supports** – Supportive housing with integrated care for complex needs.

Phased Timeline

- **Phase 0 (0–6 months):** Planning, task force, pilot hotline.
- **Phase 1 (6–24 months):** Scale prevention/diversion, RRH for ~150 youth/year.
- **Phase 2 (2027–2030):** Build 300–400 youth housing units.
- **Phase 3 (2029 onward):** Sustain, evaluate, adapt.

Illustrative Budget Summary

Category	Estimated Cost	Notes
Capital (Housing Units)	\$60M–\$160M (one-time)	300–400 units @ \$200k–\$400k/unit. Mix of supportive, transitional, RRH.
Operating & Programs	\$13M–\$25M/year	Supportive housing, RRH, prevention/diversion, outreach, admin.
Planning & Data Systems	\$0.5M–\$2M (one-time)	Needs assessment, youth registry, trauma-informed training.

Next Steps

- Form Youth Homelessness Task Force (within 1 month).
- Commission costed needs assessment (within 3 months).
- Allocate pilot funding in 2026 budget.
- Issue RFPs for rapid-build housing and service partnerships.

Conclusion

This staged, evidence-based plan provides a realistic path to functional zero youth homelessness by 2030. Success depends on sustained funding, tailored supports for youth with invisible disorders, and intergovernmental collaboration.