



Committee Report

To: Councillor Mark Goetz, Chair and
Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Tina Metcalfe
Director of Human Services

Date: September 7, 2023

Re: Exploring Options & Opportunities for Home-Sharing in Bruce County

Staff Recommendation:

That the report Exploring Options and Opportunities for Home-Sharing in Bruce County be received for information.

Background:

Affordable housing is a key component in supporting Bruce County's growth, pivotal to achieving and sustaining economic development and improving the quality of life of the residents in the County's diverse communities.

In 2013, Bruce County developed a [Long-term Housing Strategy](#), and subsequent [Bruce County Housing & Homelessness Plan Update 2019-2023](#) to advance the vision of an affordable, safe, and suitable home for all residents.

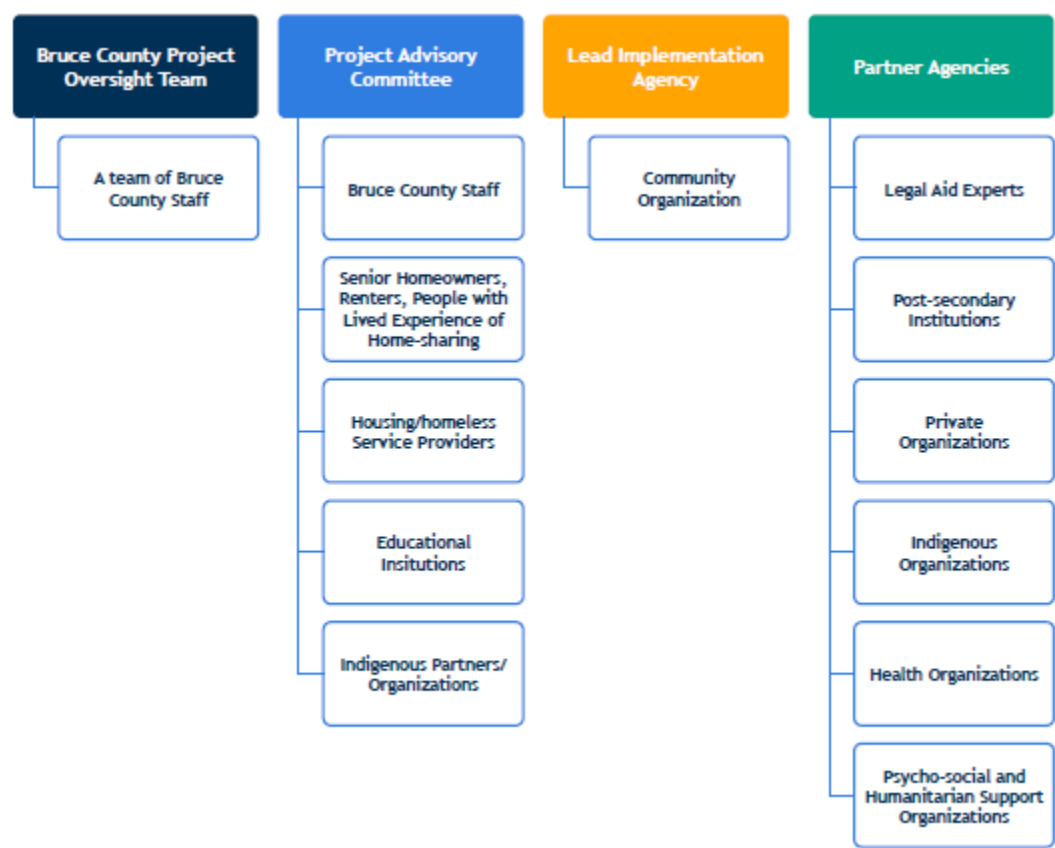
Given that one-third of the housing units within the County are owned by seniors and that these housing units have the capacity for a higher occupancy, Bruce County contracted Hub Solutions - a social enterprise embedded within the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) - to conduct research to explore options and opportunities for senior home-sharing programs in the County.

As outlined in the attached [report](#) from Hub Solutions, the research found that senior home-sharing is practiced both formally and informally worldwide. Further, that it can assist with housing affordability, facilitating housing stability, increasing social inclusion by reducing social isolation and loneliness, and decreasing wait time for housing.

Based on the findings from the literature review, data review, model scan, and discussions with stakeholders, Hub Solutions has developed a holistic operational framework including program governance structure, potential partners, required resources to launch and implement the program, potential challenges and risk mitigation strategies, and other program suggestions from intake applications to exit strategies for program participants.

Additionally, Hub Solutions has drafted a proposed chart of agencies and organization to assist in moving a senior home-sharing program forward.

Proposed Chart of Responsible Agencies/Organizations



In summary, it is evident that there is an opportunity and demand for a senior home-sharing program in Bruce County. The research revealed that Bruce County should lead and oversee the program development and, with the help of a project advisory committee comprised of relevant stakeholders, should select a community agency to oversee the day-to-day program operations.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

Staff are working on cost estimates to develop and pilot a senior home-share program in Bruce County in 2024. Estimated costs will be included in the 2024 budget submission with a tentative recommendation to fund from the affordable housing reserve. Staff will be exploring alternate sources of funding to support the initiative and limit reserve utilization.

There are no legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

The Office of the CAO was an integral to the development of this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #1 - Build a strong and inclusive community.

Goal #2 - Enhance and grow partnerships.

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Departmental Approval:

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