



# Staff Report to Council - for Information

**Title:** Housing Services 2024 Q1 Update

**From:** Tina Metcalfe, Director Human Services

**Date:** June 6, 2024

---

## Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

## Report Summary:

As the Service System Manager, Bruce County is responsible for the delivery and administration of provincially mandated social and affordable housing programs, as well as initiatives to prevent and address homelessness.

Within the continuum of housing, the Housing Services division focuses on programs and services related to deeply affordable housing and housing stability supports, emergency shelter and homelessness solutions.

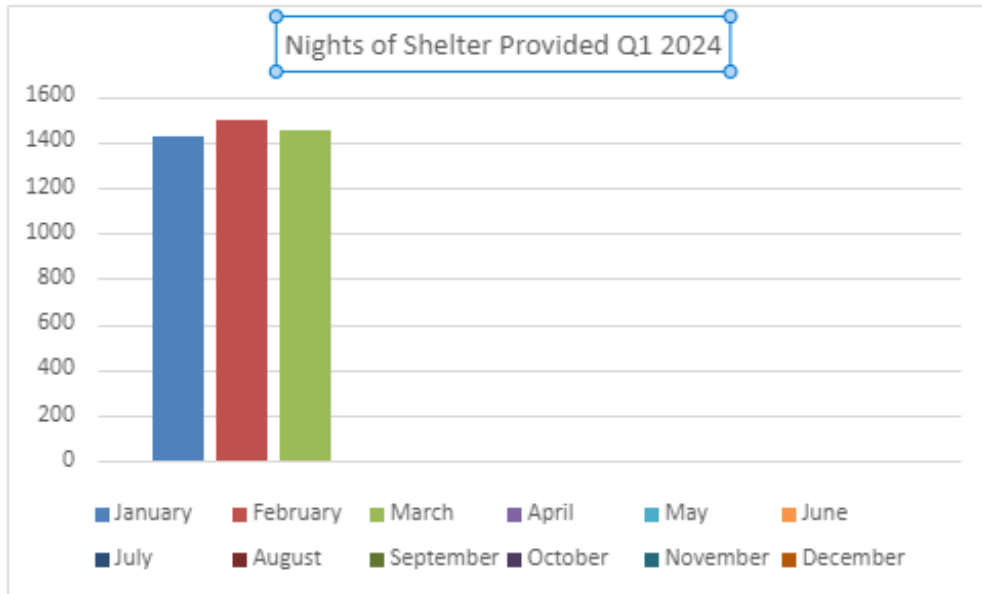
This report pertains to activities and information about programs and services between January and March of 2024.

## Background:

### EMERGENCY SHELTER SOLUTIONS

In Bruce County, the YMCA of Grey Bruce, delivers the emergency shelter solutions, through partnerships with local motels throughout the region. The YMCA provides crisis response and housing supports to adults, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelter services include outreach support and shelter diversion. The YMCA uses a Housing First approach to assist clients in finding more permanent solutions quickly.

The graph on the following page provides information on the number of nights of shelter provided to individuals and families between January and March 2024. Low vacancy rates and high rental costs have made it difficult for individuals and families experiencing homelessness to secure more permanent housing in Bruce County or surrounding areas.



Since 2020 and the onset of a global pandemic, the number of nights of shelter has increased by 362%. As the number of nights has increased so too has the cost of delivering services. The year over year cost increase is 555%. Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program dollars are used to fund emergency overnight stays.

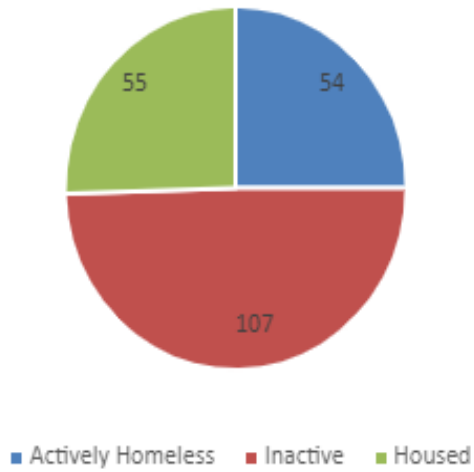
Due to the rising number of and cost to provide emergency shelter stays, Housing Services staff and the YMCA are redeveloping the homelessness response model to focus on diversion, shorter stays, faster re-housing and active involvement in individualized housing plans. These tools will help assess client need and ensure individuals receive the proper support.

### BY-NAME LIST

The By-Name List is a real-time list of all people experiencing homelessness and using homelessness response services in Bruce County. The By-Name List helps service providers prioritize needs, tracks changes in housing status, and provide information regarding demographics and chronicity.

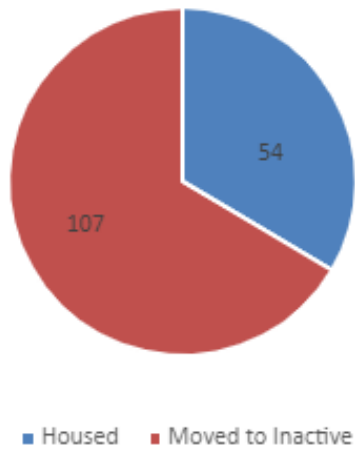
The graph below indicates that since June 2020, 192 people have been added to the By-Name List, and as of March 31, 2024, 41 households have obtained housing, 102 have moved to inactive, meaning there has been no contact for 90 days, and 49 households remain on the By-Name List.

Since June 2020  
216 People (total)

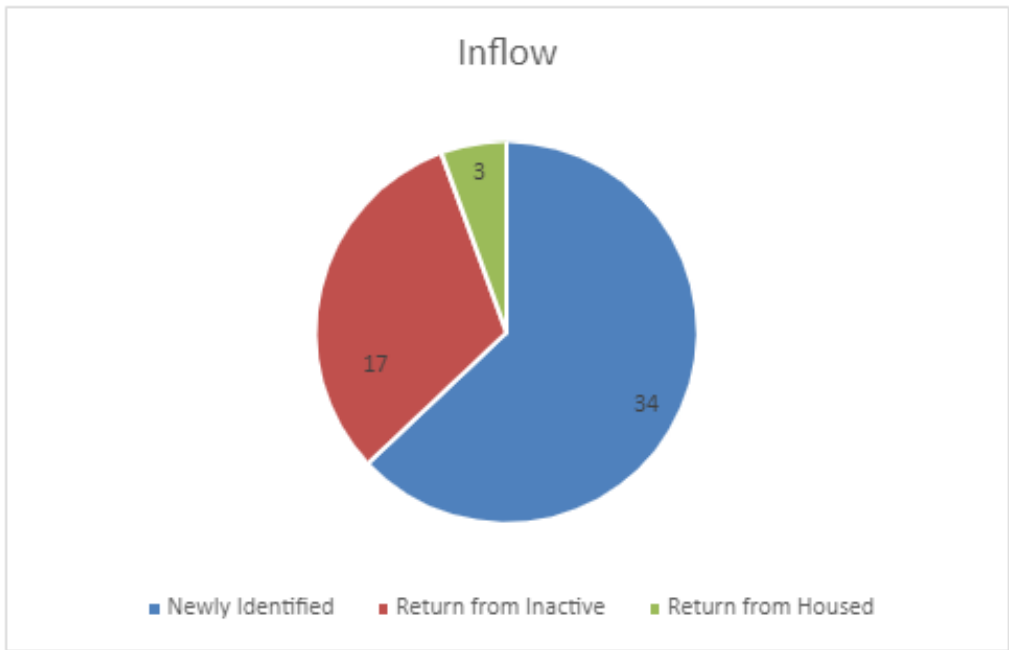


The By-Name List also tracks inflow and outflow of households. The outflow refers to households who are housed and those moved to inactive as indicated below.

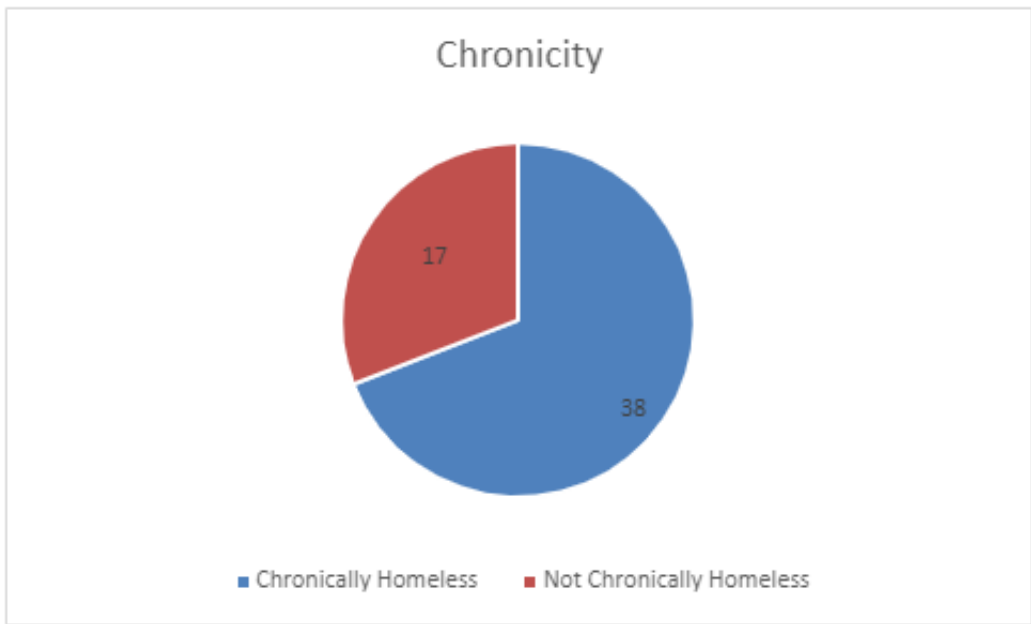
Outflow



Inflow means someone is added to or reactivated on the By-Name List. There are three categories of inflow, return from inactive, return from housed, and newly identified.



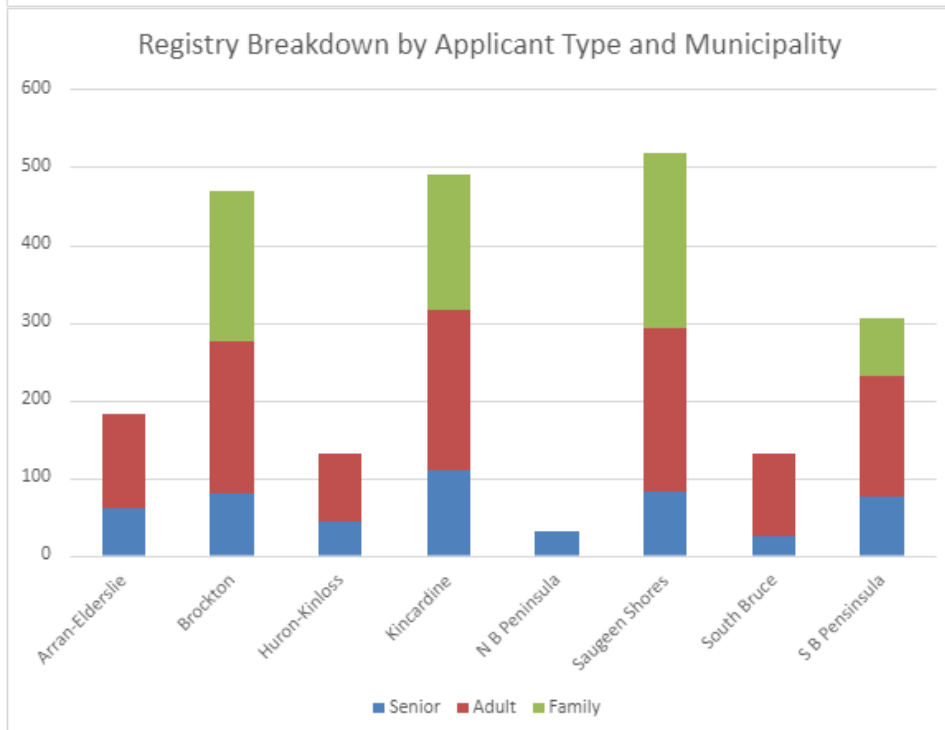
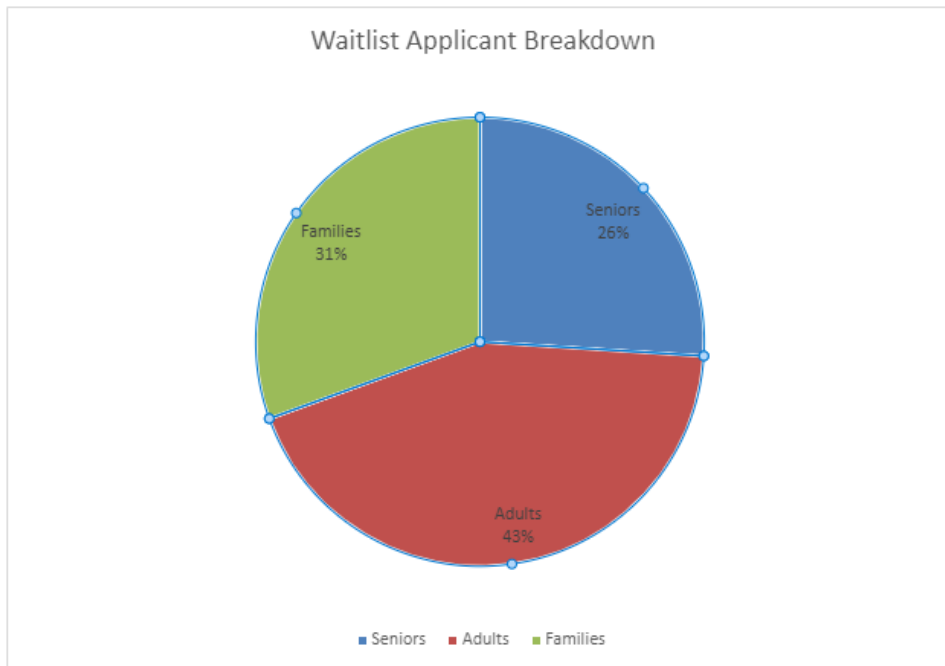
The goal of the By-Name list is to end chronic homelessness. A person is considered chronically homeless when they have been living without a home for six months (not consecutive) in one year. In Bruce County, 63% of the residents experiencing homelessness meet the chronicity definition.



## BRUCE COUNTY'S CENTRALIZED WAITLIST

As Service Manager, Bruce County is responsible for managing the Centralized Waitlist. As of March 31, 2024, there was 1194 applicants on the waitlist: 1142 rent-geared-to-income (RGI), and 52 market rent applications. There are 349 families, 496 adults, and 297 senior applications on the waitlist. The number of applicants on the waitlist has increased 13% since March 31, 2023.

There have been 7 applicants housed between January 1, 2024, and March 31, 2024.

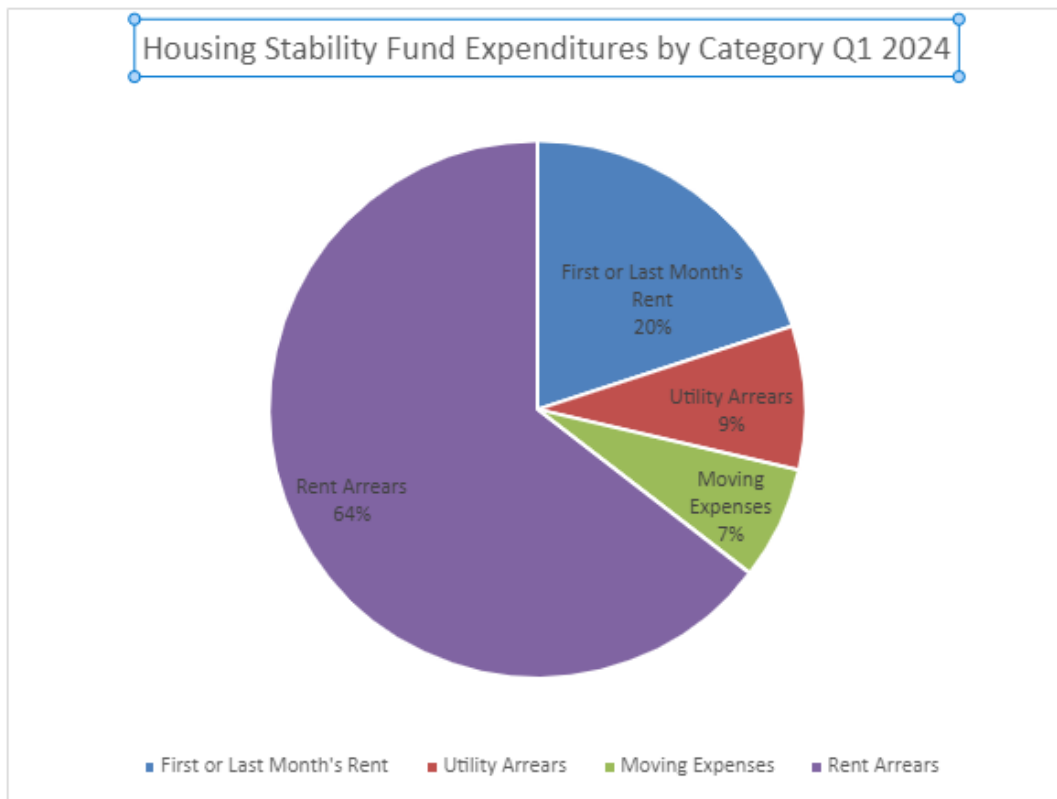


The number of applicants per municipality varies across the County and is based on availability of units in the area. For example, Northern Bruce Peninsula has one building focused on senior rentals, as well there are family units in Kincardine, Brockton, Saugeen Shores, and South Bruce Peninsula only.

### HOUSING STABILITY SUPPORTS

Bruce County provides housing stability support for residents who require assistance with rental arrears, utilities arrears, first or last month's rent, and or moving expenses. Between January 1, 2024, and March 31, 2024, 58 eligible applicants have received funding to sustain their current housing or transition to more affordable housing.

The graph below outlines the percentage of funding by category. This information indicates the highest expenditures are for rental arrears, which points towards an emphasis on housing sustainability.



#### Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

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

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

There is no interdepartmental consultation associated with this report.

**Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:**

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

**Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:**

The coordinated management of deeply affordable housing and housing stability supports, emergency shelter, and homelessness solutions is in alignment with [Bruce County's Housing and Homelessness Plan Update 2019-2023](#).

**Report Author:**

Tania Dickson, Housing Services Manager

**Departmental Approval:**

Tina Metcalfe, Director of Human Services

**Approved for Submission:**

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer