



The Corporation of the City of Stratford
Social Services Committee
Open Session
AGENDA

Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Time: 7:05 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Hunter, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Sebben, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: André Morin - Chief Administrative Officer, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Audrey Pascual - Deputy Clerk, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services and Interim Director of Human Resources, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Neil Anderson - Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief

To watch the Committee meeting live, please click the following link:

<https://video.isilive.ca/stratford/live.html>

A video recording of the meeting will also be available through a link on the City's website

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings> following the meeting.

Pages

1. Call to Order

The Chair to call the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Beatty and Councillor Biehn provided regrets for this meeting.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a

member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

3. Sub-committee Minutes

4 - 9

Sub-committee minutes are attached for background regarding the discussion held at the October 7, 2025, Sub-committee meeting.

4. Delegations

None scheduled.

5. Report of the Manager of Children's Services

5.1 Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County (SOC25-011)

10 - 16

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-011), be received for information.

Additional information regarding access to licensed childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County has been included in an update attached to this agenda (SOC25-012).

Motion by

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-011), be received for information;

AND THAT the report titled, "Update to Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-012), be received for information.

6. Report of the Homelessness and Housing Stability Supervisor

6.1 Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) update (SOC25-010)

17 - 18

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Update" (SOC25-010), be received for information;

THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Social Services to enter into Data Sharing Agreements with community partners, as part of the

onboarding process for the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), on behalf of the Corporation;

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate authority to the Director to sign HIFIS Data Sharing Agreements with community partners.

Motion by

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Update" (SOC25-010), be received for information;

THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Social Services to enter into Data Sharing Agreements with community partners, as part of the onboarding process for the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), on behalf of the Corporation;

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate authority to the Director to sign HIFIS Data Sharing Agreements with community partners.

7. For the Information of Committee

7.1 Department Update

19 - 33

The following Department Update Infographics of June, July and August, 2025 have been provided for the information of Committee:

- Monthly Children's Services Report
- Monthly Homelessness Report
- Monthly Housing Report
- Monthly Ontario Works Report
- Monthly Report Social Services Stratford

8. Adjournment

Meeting Start Time:

Meeting End Time:

Motion by

Committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Committee meeting adjourn.



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee

MINUTES

Date: October 7, 2025

Time: 4:30 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services and Interim Director of Human Resources, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, Mandy Koroniak - Manager of Children's Services, John Ritz - Homelessness and Housing Stability Supervisor, Jeff Wilson – Manager of Housing, Will Mason – Maintenance Rent Receivables Clerk, Miranda Franken - Council Clerk Secretary

1. **Call to Order**

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

Respectful Conduct Statement

2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence

from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a Member at the October 7, 2025, Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

None scheduled.

4. Report of the Manager of Children's Services

4.1 Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County (SOC25-011)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-011), be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Children's Services provided an overview of the report. Highlights included the following:

- the report providing a review of access to licensed childcare in the area particularly for children from birth to 4 years of age;
- access to childcare for 8 hours per day or more, for 12 months annually prior to school entry at kindergarten having the greatest impact;
- childcare allowing parents to hold full time employment with economic benefits occurring across the lifespan;
- benefits including immediate impacts of increased labour force participation, reduction of income inequality, and long term impacts of a positive early learning environment on decreasing developmental vulnerability;
- Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County access to full day, year round childcare for these ages remaining low;
- a correction to the data presented in the report being noted, specifically that the 88 spaces indicated to be opened in Perth County in 2025 will not be opened until a later date;

- it being expected by the end of 2025 that 16% of children from birth to age 4 across Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County will have access to full time care, and representing 15% in Stratford; and
- continued efforts to increase local access being required with not enough childcare at this time.

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-011), be received for information.

Carried

5. Report of the Homelessness and Housing Stability Supervisor

5.1 Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) update (SOC25-010)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Update" (SOC25-010), be received for information;

THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Social Services to enter into Data Sharing Agreements with community partners, as part of the onboarding process for the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), on behalf of the Corporation;

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate authority to the Director to sign HIFIS Data Sharing Agreements with community partners.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Homelessness and Housing Stability Supervisor provided an overview of the report. Highlights included:

- as the Consolidated Municipal Services Manager (CMSM) the City of Stratford being the lead agency in homelessness response for Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County;
- internal staff having been trained in the use and implementation of the Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS);

- HIFIS being used to track and share resources to best support the vulnerable populations in each municipality;
- the intention being to expand HIFIS to community partners allowing for streamlined resources with community partners and the City's contracted after hours provider;
- the expansion being to better serve clients, share information and case plan for permanent housing stability; and
- authority to sign data sharing agreements with community partners to streamline this process and allow for more rapid training of agencies.

Discussion occurred between Sub-committee and Staff. Highlights of the discussion included the following:

- staff provided clarification that Shelterlink Youth Services is the City's contracted provider for after hour services with the relationship having been successful and being mutually beneficial;
- Shelterlink being contracted to assess ongoing needs after hours including providing ongoing emergency needs, diversion strategies to assess the needs of unhoused individuals and to make a plan for outcome and eligibility requirements;
- in response to a Member's question, staff noted that if an individual is deemed eligible for emergency accommodations this can be provided after hours.

Motion by Councillor Briscoe

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Update" (SOC25-010), be received for information;

THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Social Services to enter into Data Sharing Agreements with community partners, as part of the onboarding process for the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), on behalf of the Corporation;

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate authority to the

Director to sign HIFIS Data Sharing Agreements with community partners.

Carried

6. Department Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Social Services provided an overview of the Department Update and noted a variance report is being prepared. Members of Sub-committee and Staff discussed the update highlighting:

- 144 households experiencing homelessness which includes individuals who are couch surfing, living with family or may be unsheltered;
- a Member asking if there is an expectation that the homelessness numbers will increase or decrease;
- it being noted that the City does not have any evidence based data to predict this;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) having circulated a report with projected numbers that indicated an increase in homelessness is expected but this being dependent on different factors;
- 115 individuals experiencing homelessness from the By Name List having been housed between June 2024 and June 2025 and this being good progress;
- much work to be done in housing stability to ensure individuals are not re-entering homelessness;
- regarding a plan for the winter season, work being done with the Ending Homelessness Group and the Council of Churches to look at options as directed by Council at the September 8, 2025 meeting;
- emergency accommodations having been used successfully for many years to house individuals during the winter season;
- it being questioned whether the temperature of -15 degrees Celsius with windchill for emergency housing is mandated or if it can be changed;
- staff noting the temperature in the policy can be changed;

- -15 degrees with windchill being based on best practices as seen in other municipalities and due to the impacts of being outside for extended periods of time at this temperature;
- emergency housing length of stay varying based on the circumstances of the individual with shorter or longer stays depending on weather, and or engagement in future housing opportunities available;
- a Member noting winters are getting colder and questioning whether -10 with windchill should be considered; and
- staff to assess best practices and investigate if there have been any changes in municipalities emergency housing policies during winter months.

7. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is November 12, 2025 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:45 P.M.



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: October 7, 2025
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Mandy Koroniak, Manager of Children's Services
Report Number: SOC25-011
Attachments: None

Title: Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County

Objective: To provide Sub-committee with an update on access to licensed childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County, and review the value of access to affordable, high-quality, licensed childcare to the economy.

Background: Licensed childcare is a significant economic driver, supporting a family's participation in the labour force. The economic importance of access to licensed childcare has been communicated by the Government of Canada and provincial governments with introduction of the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare (CWELCC) System and the vision that families may "access to high-quality, affordable, flexible, and inclusive early learning and childcare no matter where they live". In support of this vision, the Province of Ontario set a target of improving the provincial average access rate for children from birth to age 5 to 37% by 2026.

To best support full labour force participation, it is availability of full-time, year-round access to licensed prior to school entry (e.g. 8 or more hours of care per day, from birth to age 4) that has the greatest impact, allowing parents to hold full-time employment. Affordability for these highest-cost spaces was greatly improved with introduction of the CWELCC System. While this resulted in a corresponding increase in demand for licensed childcare spaces and created challenges in accessing licensed childcare for many families, it is also positively correlated with improved labour force participation for core-age women (25-54 years), [which reached a record-high of 79.7% in 2023](#).

Public investments into licensed childcare show a strong return on investment, estimated to be about [\\$6 for every dollar spent](#) in the Canadian context. The economic benefits occur across the lifespan. These include the immediate impacts of increased labour force participation and reduction of income inequality, to the long-term impacts of positive early learning environments on decreasing developmental vulnerability, shown to be a [lifelong predictor of health, learning, and behaviour](#).

Through the Ministry of Education's Capital Priorities program, which supports the creation of licensed childcare spaces in conjunction with school infrastructure projects, 176 new full-day, year-round spaces are expected to be opened this year in Perth County. These spaces resulted from successful applications made by school boards and endorsed by the City of Stratford. Within Stratford, it is further expected that a new, 98-space centre operated by for-profit, child care operator will be opened in 2026. While progress towards equity of access to licensed childcare is being made, most families remain without access to a space; this will remain true provincially even if the target access rate of 37% is achieved.

Analysis: While the Province of Ontario has set a target for a provincial access rate of 37% for children from birth to age 5, the service delivery area of Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth continues to fall short of this target. By the end of 2025, it is expected that the access rate for these age groups in the area will reach 22.8%, however access to full-day, year-round care children prior to school entry remains low, as shown in the chart below:

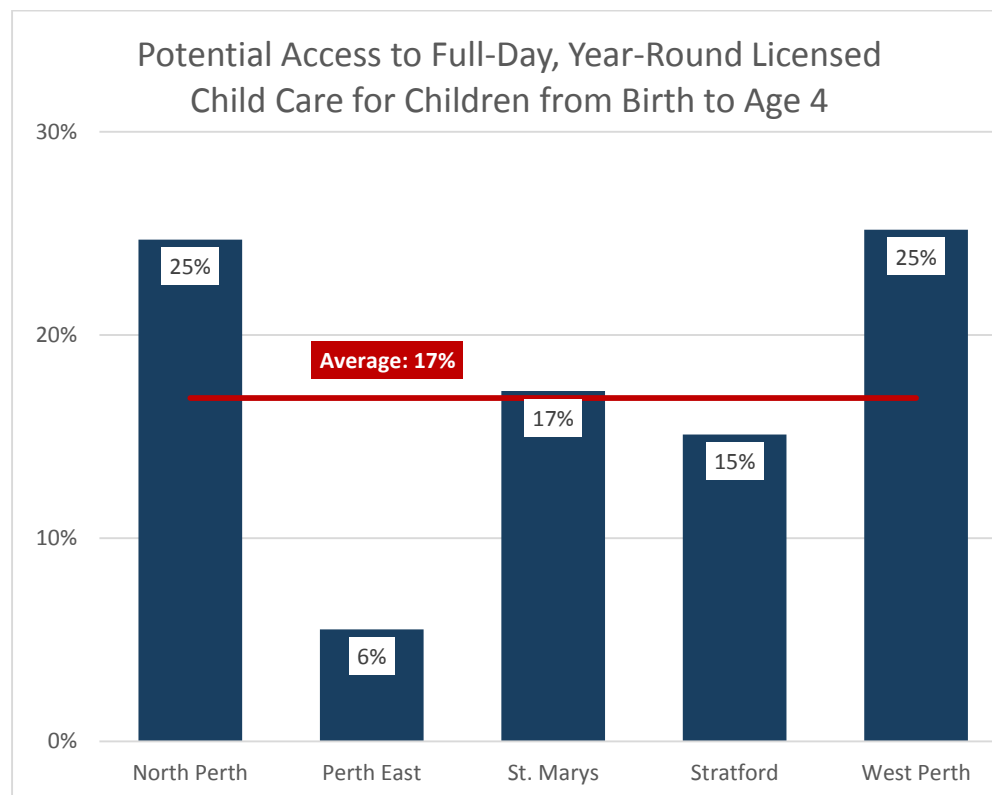


Figure 1: Percent access is calculated using the population of children from birth to age 4 (Statistics Canada) and the number of licensed infant, toddler, preschool, and family age group spaces projected to be licensed by November/ December 2025 (City of Stratford Service Data).
Perth South currently has no licensed childcare spaces and is not shown on this chart.

The access rate for full-day, year-round licensed childcare in Stratford is 15%, which is below the average of 17% across the service area. The inclusion of part-time (e.g. nursery school) spaces provides for some level of licensed childcare for up to 21% of the Stratford population from birth to age 4. The addition of the 98-spaces planned for

2026 will increase the access rate to full-day, year-round licensed childcare to 27% in Stratford.

While families may seek care outside of the municipality in which they live, this data provides for an understanding of the extent to which families' full labour force participation may be supported through the access to full-day, year-round licensed childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County through 2026, and shows that there is not enough licensed childcare for those who need it.

As Service System Manager (SSM) the City was provided with a growth target of 461 spaces for the service area over the period of 2023-2026 (see report SOC25-007 ["Canada-Wide Early Learning and Childcare Implementation Update and Directed Growth Priorities"](#)). Including the 274 approved spaces described above, there remain at least 187 spaces available for growth to the end of 2026. Achieving the complete target of 461 spaces will provide an access rate of just 27% across Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County for children from birth to age 5, including all part-time and kindergarten spaces.

The Children's Services Division continues to explore opportunities to create new licensed childcare spaces in collaboration with community-based childcare operators, and advocate to the Province of Ontario on recognizing and addressing the unique needs related to the creation of new licensed childcare spaces in small urban and rural communities.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

The spaces being developed in 2025 are not expected to have any net impact as these projects have been supported with Ministry of Education funding.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

The 98-space centre being created in 2026 is also not anticipated to impact the City's core revenue and expenses as budgeted. Infrastructure funding to support this project is 100% Provincial/Federal funding and minimum municipal cost-share requirements for child care operating costs are not impacted.

Link to asset management plan and strategy:

Not applicable, as these initiatives will not result in City assets and relate to program funding.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Work Together For Greater Impact

This report aligns with this priority as the Children's Services Division works with community-based childcare operators to plan for and provide funding to support the

expansion of affordable, high-quality licensed childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Equity and Local Economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-011), be received for information.

Prepared by:

Mandy Koroniak, Manager of Children's Services

Recommended by:

Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services and Acting Director of Human Resources

André Morin, CPA, Chief Administrative Officer



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: October 27, 2025
To: Social Services Committee
From: Mandy Koroniak, Manager of Children's Services
Report Number: SOC25-012
Attachments: None

Title: Update to Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County

Objective: To provide Committee with an update regarding information presented in the report Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County (SOC25-11).

Background: The report [Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County \(SOC25-11\)](#) reviews access to licensed child care in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County, particularly for children from birth to age 4. The report describes that 176 new full-day, year-round spaces are projected to be opened this year in Perth County, and that this will provide for an average access rate of 17% across the service delivery area.

Analysis: This report shares a correction, as 88 of the spaces indicated to be opened in Perth County in 2025 will not be opened until a later date. By the end of 2025, it is thereby expected that just 16% of children from birth to age 4 across Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County will have access to full-time care.

An updated chart showing the projected potential access to full-day, year-round licensed childcare from birth to age 4 by December 2025 is shown below:

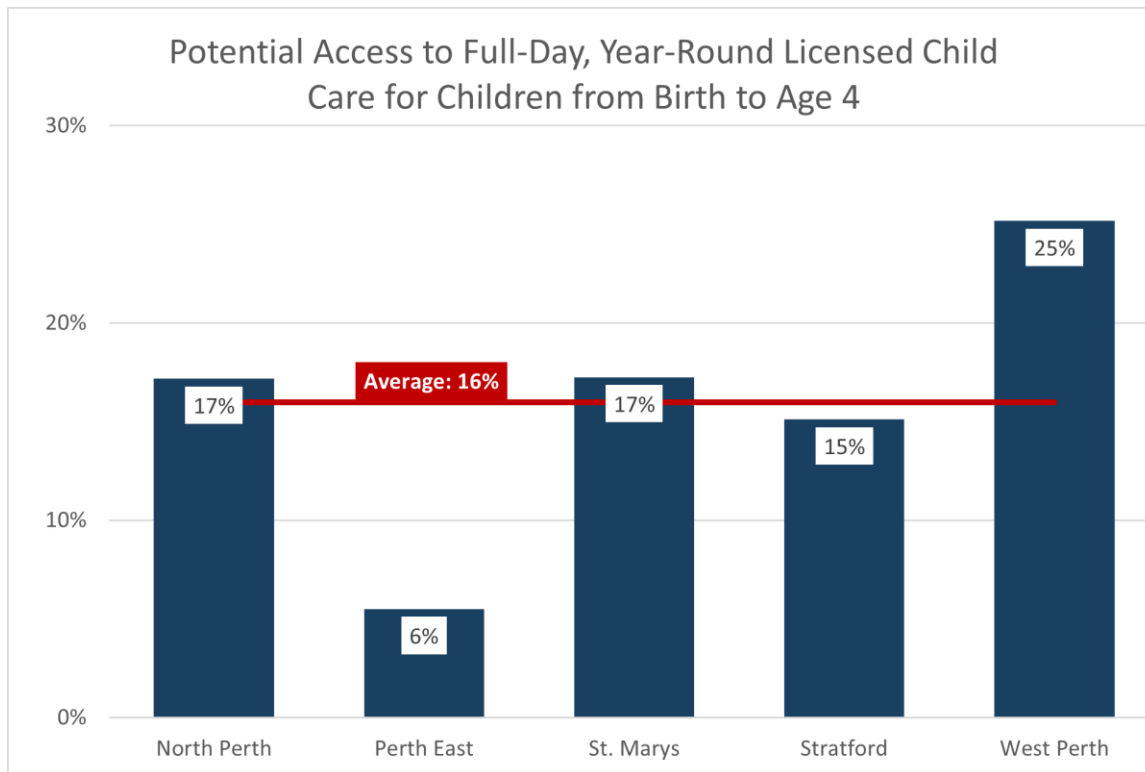


Figure 1: Percent access is calculated using the population of children from birth to age 4 (Statistics Canada) and the number of licensed infant, toddler, preschool, and family age group spaces projected to be licensed by November/ December 2025 (City of Stratford Service Data).
Perth South currently has no licensed childcare spaces and is not shown on this chart.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

As these spaces are to be developed at a later time, there will be no impact to the current year operating budget.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

The future development of these spaces is also not anticipated to impact the City's core revenue and expenses as budgeted as the minimum municipal cost-share requirements for childcare operating costs are not impacted.

Link to asset management plan and strategy:

Not applicable, as these initiatives will not result in City assets and relate to program funding.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Work Together For Greater Impact

This report aligns with this priority as the Children's Services Division works with community-based childcare operators to plan for and provide funding to support the

expansion of affordable, high-quality licensed childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Equity and Local Economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Update to Access to Licensed Childcare in Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County" (SOC25-012), be received for information.

Prepared by:

Mandy Koroniak, Manager of Children's Services

Recommended by:

Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services and Acting Director of Human Resources

André Morin, Chief Administrative Officer



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: October 7, 2025
To: Social Services Sub-Committee
From: John Ritz, Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability
Report Number: SOC25-010
Attachments: None

Title: Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) update

Objective: To provide the Social Services Sub-committee an update on the implementation of HIFIS as expansion begins to onboard external community partners, as well as obtain delegated authority to sign Data Sharing Agreements with agencies as part of our Coordinated Access System of support within Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County.

Background: As the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM), the City of Stratford is the lead agency in homelessness response for the City of Stratford, St. Marys, and Perth County. As part of this response, we are regularly looking at how we can best communicate with community partners, share resources, and follow industry best practices to support the vulnerable populations served in each municipality.

With this, the City is excited to announce the external launch and onboarding of HIFIS to external community agencies. Through this expansion, there will be streamlined resources with community partners and the City's contracted after-hours response, allowing for improved communication and delivery of services. As training of new agencies is begun and implemented, the ability to sign off on data sharing agreements is required to ensure all Coordinated Access partners into HIFIS are consistently onboarded.

Analysis: Through the expansion of HIFIS and assisting with the implementation across the Coordinated Access System, the City will be able to better serve clients, share information, and case plan for longer term success in permanent stable housing. Authority to sign Data Sharing Agreements with community partners will streamline this process and allow for a more rapid training of agencies.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact on current year operating budget: Staffing costs associated with training external community agencies with this project is included in the approved operating budget. No further costs are anticipated as the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) is a Canadian federal data collection system, and not a service with a direct cost to users.

Financial impact on future year operating budget: There are no future year operating cost impacts anticipated for this project.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Work Together For Greater Impact

This report aligns with this priority as we are looking to expand our methods of community support by streamlining our communication methods with shared partners supporting our communities most vulnerable.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled, "Homelessness Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Update" (SOC25-010), be received for information;

THAT authority be delegated to the Director of Social Services to enter into Data Sharing Agreements with community partners, as part of the onboarding process for the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS), on behalf of the Corporation;

AND THAT the Delegation of Authority By-law 135-2017, as amended, be further amended to delegate authority to the Director to sign HIFIS Data Sharing Agreements with community partners.

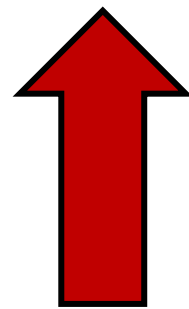
Prepared by:	John Ritz, Supervisor of Homelessness and Housing Stability
Recommended by:	Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
	André Morin, CPA, Chief Administrative Officer

SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

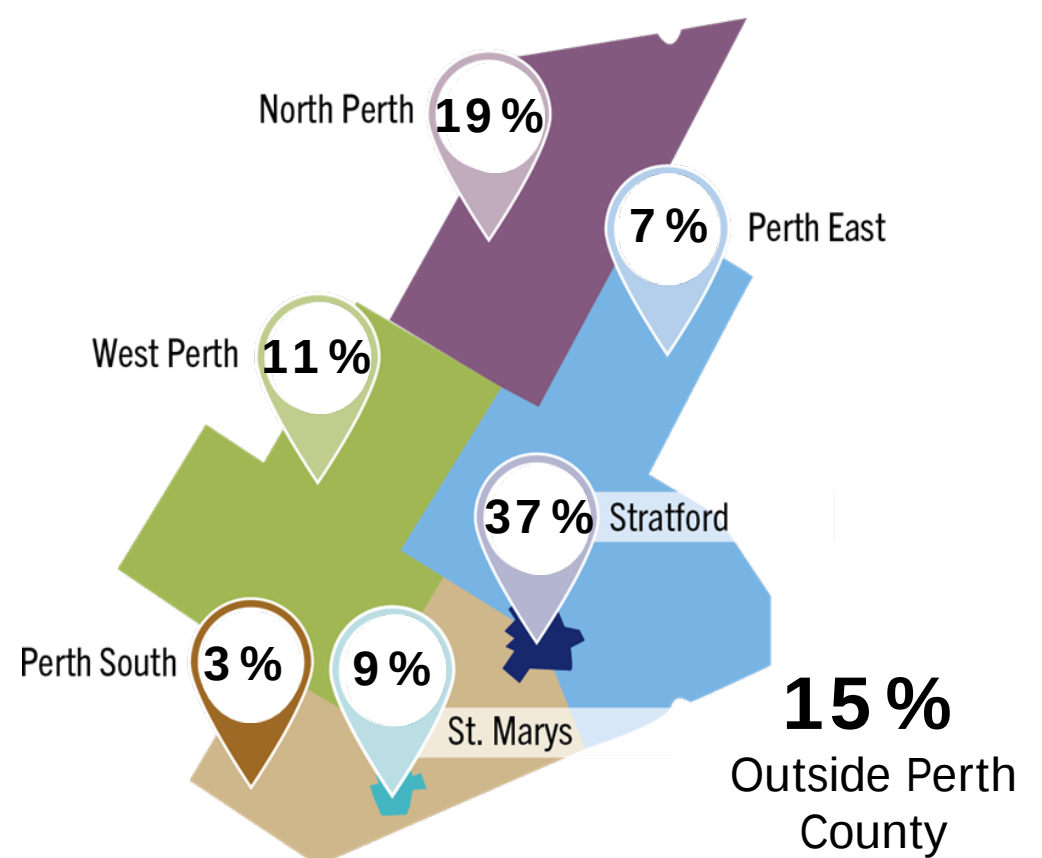
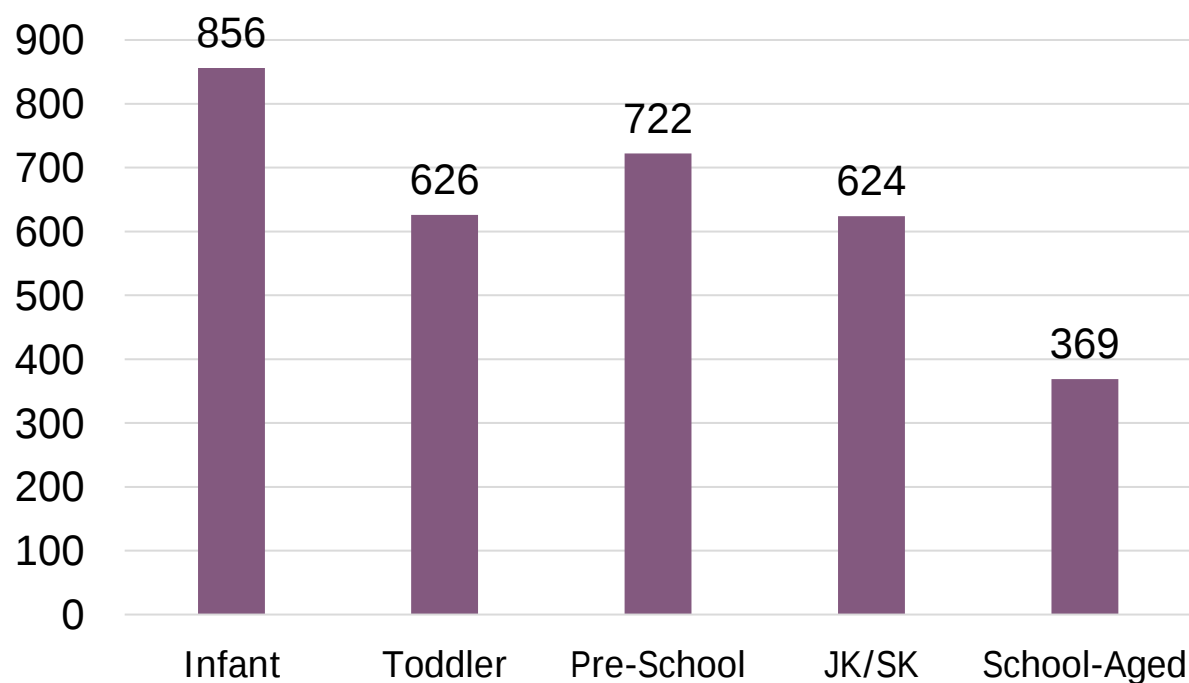
3,197

Total number of children
on the child care waitlist



This is an increase from May
2025, when there were
3,151 children on the child
care waitlist

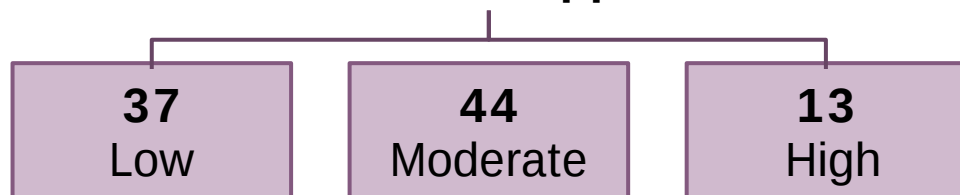
Age Category on the waitlist



Resource Consulting

94 Total children
supported by the
Program

Level of Support



EarlyON

535

Unique
children (0-6
years) served

428

Unique parents/
caregivers
served

2,135

Visits by
children (0-6
years)

1,651

Visits by
parents/
caregivers

i Information Bulletin

The Children's Services Division is the Service System Manager for licensed child care in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County. In partnership with the community, the Children's Services Division promotes fair and equal access to high quality care for children, and support to their families and caregivers.

For more information about Children's Services and supports
please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/childcare.aspx>



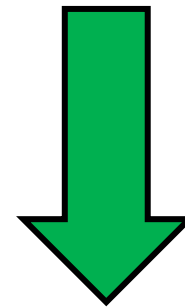
SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY HOMELESSNESS REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys



144

Total number of households experiencing homelessness



This is a decrease from May 2025, when there were **149** households experiencing homelessness



5

New households entering into homelessness



1

Households returned to service area or reconnected with services



1

Households who lost their housing



5

Households who became housed



7

Households who left the service area or had no contact with service provider

Population Specific Information

110 Single Adults

21 Youth (16-24)

13 Families

131 Chronic

29 Unsheltered

20 Identify as Indigenous

Information Bulletin

A variety of different factors can contribute to an individual's experience of homelessness. Often, people experience homelessness when all other options have been exhausted, and/or they are dealing with circumstances that make it difficult to maintain housing. Some of these obstacles that may lead people to their experiences of homelessness include:

- Eviction
- The affordable housing crisis
- Coping with mental illnesses or addictions, which makes it difficult to maintain housing

Source: The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness - The Homelessness Hub

For more information about housing and homelessness services and supports please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/Homelessness.aspx>

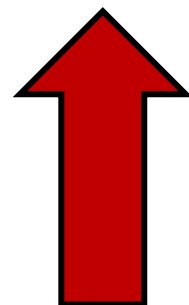


SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY SOCIAL HOUSING REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

645

Total number of Households
on the centralized waitlist



This is an increase from May 2025, when there were **612** households on the centralized waitlist

Unit Size

1 Bedroom	62%
2 Bedroom	15%
3 Bedroom	12%
4+ Bedroom	11%

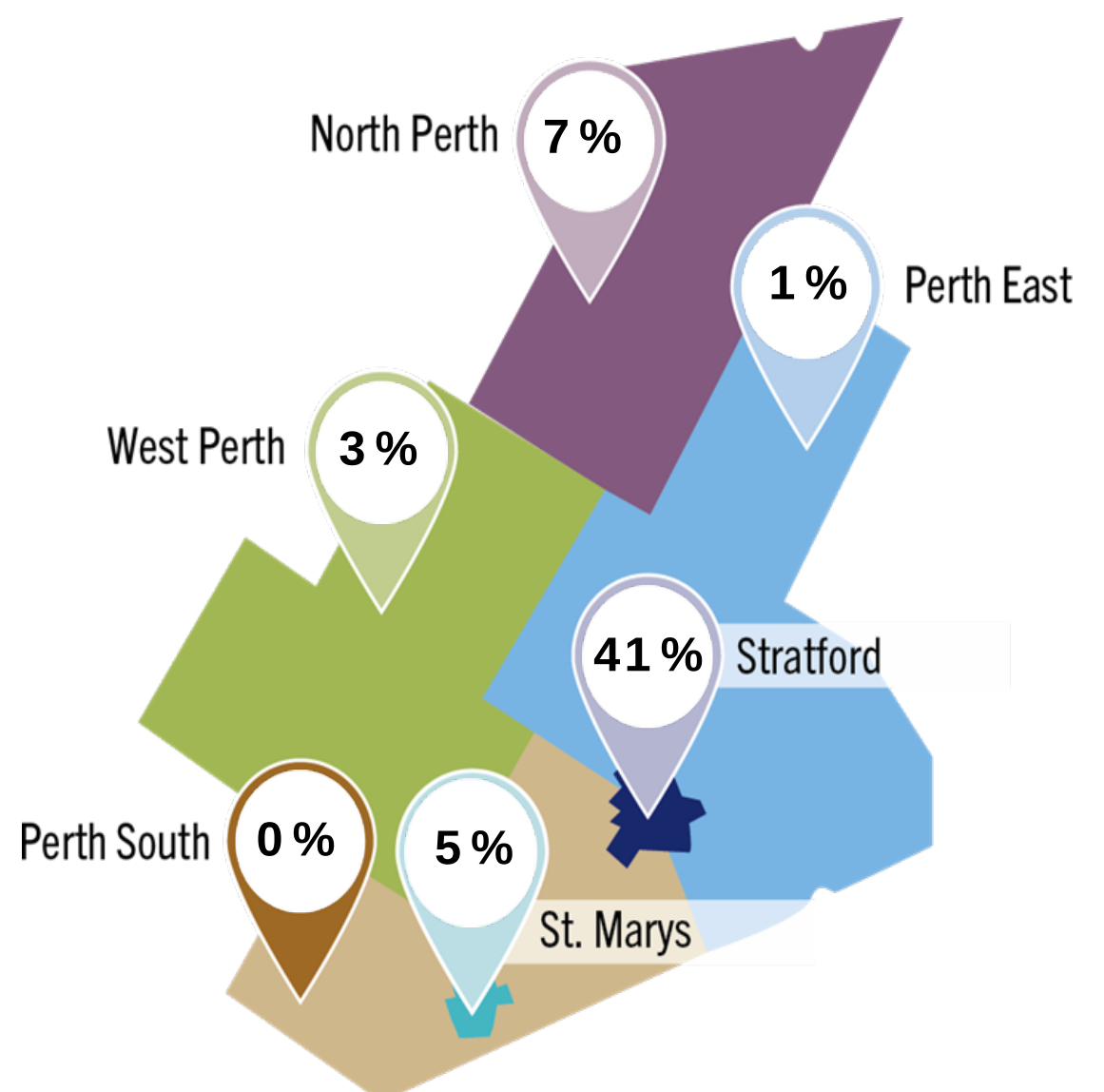
Applicant Type

Single/Couple	53%
Family	36%
Senior	11%

Priority Status

Chronological Order	87%
Homeless	7%
Special Provincial Priority (SPP)*	6%

*SPP: Survivor of domestic abuse or trafficking



Unknown: **7 %**

Outside Perth County: **36 %**

*Current applicant address

Move ins & Move outs

1 Total number of move outs

2 Total number of move ins

Maintenance



308

Number of
Work orders
requested

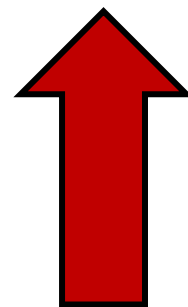
For more information about housing services and supports please
visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/housing.aspx>



SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY ONTARIO WORKS REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

838 Total number of
active caseloads



This is an increase from May 2025, when there were **837** active cases

50 Total number of active
temporary care cases*

*If you are an adult and you are temporarily responsible for the care of a child who is in financial need, you may be eligible for temporary care assistance on their behalf.



24 %

Percentage of
caseload
terminations exiting
to employment



6 %

Percentage
of Caseload
terminated



79

New applications
received



12 %

Percentage of
caseloads with
employment earnings



\$947

Average monthly
employment
earnings

Population Specific Information



68 %

Singles without
dependents



27 %

Lone parent
families



5 %

Couples with
or without
dependents

**2.4
Years**

Average time
on Assistance

\$733

The maximum
amount a Single on
Ontario works
receives per month



Information Bulletin

Ontario Works provides income and employment supports to people in temporary financial need. If you qualify, Ontario Works can provide you with:

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- Employment assistance to help you prepare for and find a job.

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For more information about Ontario Works and Social Assistance please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/ontarioworks.aspx#How-to-Apply-for-Financial-Assistance>



SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY CITY OF STRATFORD REPORT

Children's Services

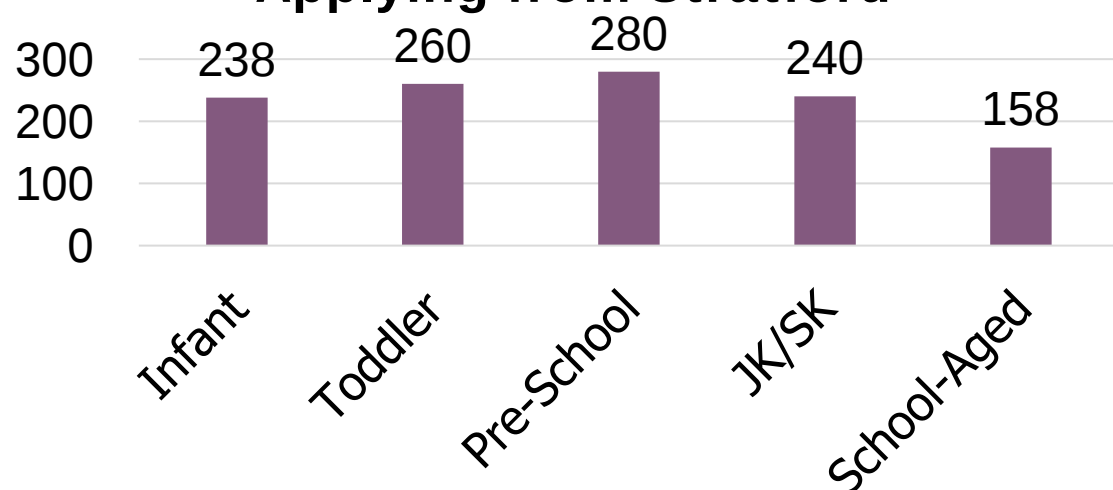
1,176

Total number of children on the child care waitlist applying from Stratford

37 %

Percentage of the total child care waitlist applying from Stratford

Age Category on the waitlist –
Applying from Stratford



EarlyON - Stratford

163

Unique children (0-6 years) served

140

Unique parents/caregivers served

353

Visits by children (0-6 years)

300

Visits by parents/caregivers

Social Housing

266

Total Households on the centralized waitlist applying from Stratford

Unit Size

1 Bedroom	69%
2 Bedroom	12%
3 Bedroom	10%
4+ Bedroom	9%

Applicant Type

Single/Couple	60%
Family	29%
Senior	11%

41 %

Percentage of the total centralized waitlist applying from Stratford

Priority Status

Chronological Order	83%
Homeless	10%
Special Provincial Priority (SPP)*	8%

*SPP: Survivor of domestic abuse or trafficking

Ontario Works

495

Total number of active cases in Stratford

59 %

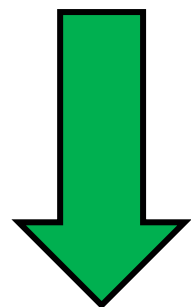
Percentage of the total Ontario Works caseload that are in Stratford

SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

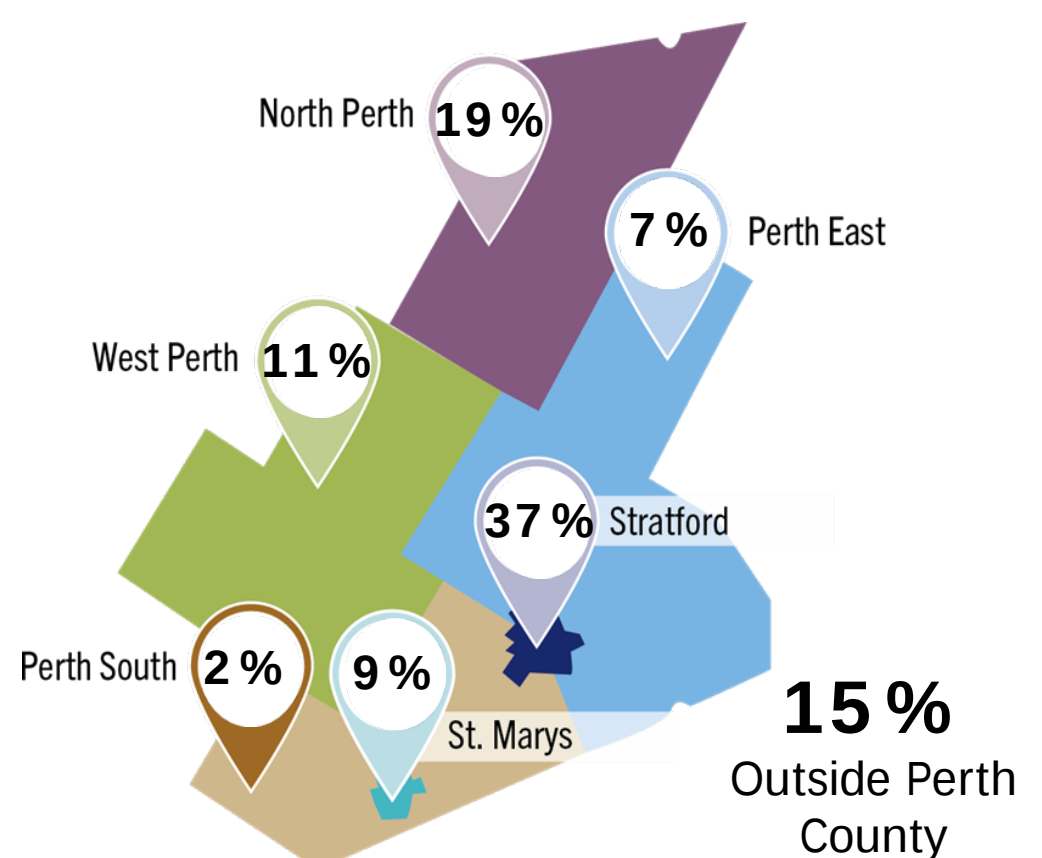
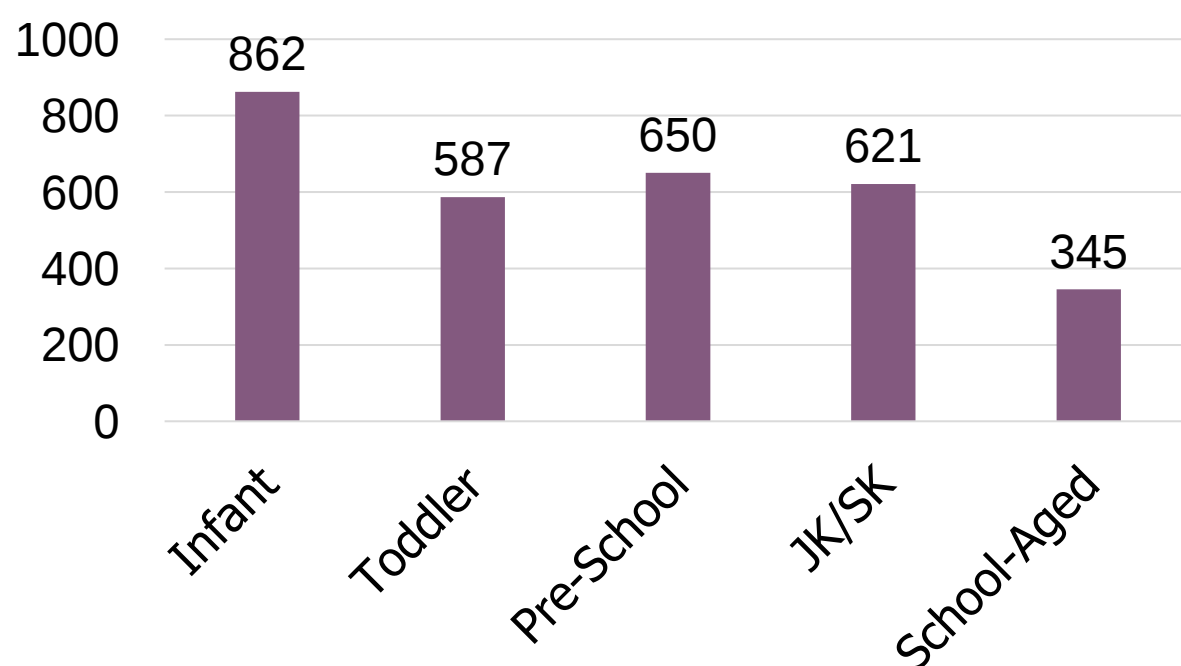
3,065

Total number of children
on the child care waitlist



This is a decrease from June
2025, when there were
3,197 children on the child
care waitlist

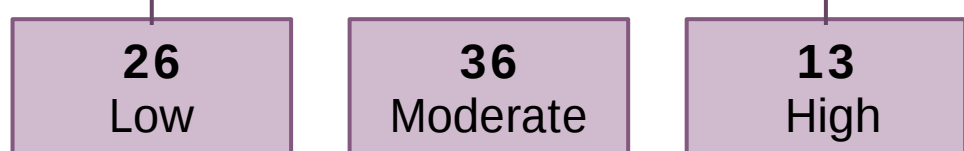
Age Category on the waitlist



Resource Consulting

75 Total children
supported by the
Program

Level of Support



EarlyON

622 Unique
children (0-6
years) served

461 Unique parents/
caregivers
served

1,748 Visits by
children (0-6
years)

1,694 Visits by
parents/
caregivers

i Information Bulletin

The Children's Services Division is the Service System Manager for licensed child care in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth County. In partnership with the community, the Children's Services Division promotes fair and equal access to high quality care for children, and support to their families and caregivers.

For more information about Children's Services and supports
please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/childcare.aspx>



SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY HOMELESSNESS REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys



144

Total number of households experiencing homelessness

This is the same number from June 2025, when there were **144** households experiencing homelessness



13

New households entering into homelessness



3

Households returned to service area or reconnected with services



5

Households who lost their housing



17

Households who became housed



4

Households who left the service area or had no contact with service provider

Population Specific Information

111 Single Adults

17 Youth (16-24)

16 Families

128 Chronic

39 Unsheltered

21 Identify as Indigenous

i Information Bulletin

A variety of different factors can contribute to an individual's experience of homelessness. Often, people experience homelessness when all other options have been exhausted, and/or they are dealing with circumstances that make it difficult to maintain housing. Some of these obstacles that may lead people to their experiences of homelessness include:

- Eviction
- The affordable housing crisis
- Coping with mental illnesses or addictions, which makes it difficult to maintain housing

Source: The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness - The Homelessness Hub

For more information about housing and homelessness services and supports please visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/Homelessness.aspx>

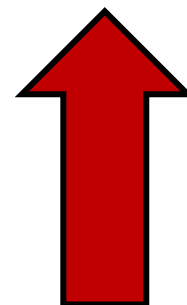


SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY SOCIAL HOUSING REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

656

Total number of Households
on the centralized waitlist



This is an increase from June 2025, when there were **645** households on the centralized waitlist

Unit Size

1 Bedroom	62%
2 Bedroom	15%
3 Bedroom	12%
4+ Bedroom	11%

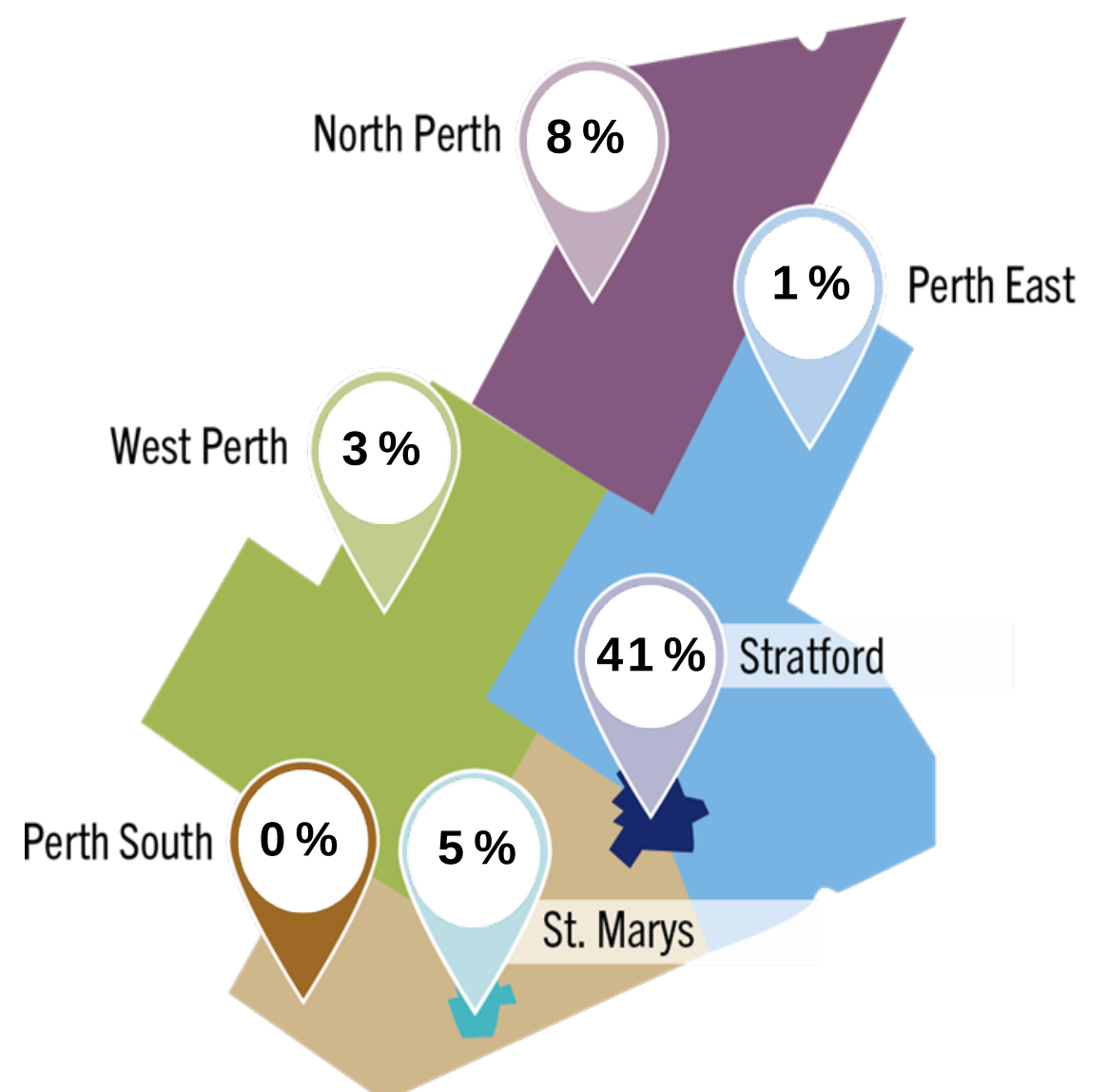
Applicant Type

Single/Couple	53%
Family	36%
Senior	11%

Priority Status

Chronological Order	87%
Homeless	7%
Special Provincial Priority (SPP)*	6%

*SPP: Survivor of domestic abuse or trafficking



Unknown: **7 %**

Outside Perth County: **35 %**

*Current applicant address

Move ins & Move outs

12 Total number of move outs

5 Total number of move ins

Maintenance



278

Number of
Work orders
requested

For more information about housing services and supports please
visit: <https://www.stratford.ca/en/inside-city-hall/housing.aspx>

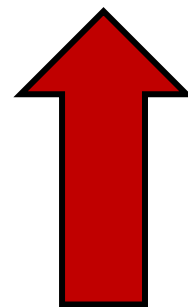


SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY ONTARIO WORKS REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

846

Total number of
active caseloads



This is an increase from June 2025, when there were **838** active cases

52

Total number of active
temporary care cases*

*If you are an adult and you are temporarily responsible for the care of a child who is in financial need, you may be eligible for temporary care assistance on their behalf.



31 %

Percentage of
caseload
terminations exiting
to employment



7 %

Percentage
of Caseload
terminated



67

New applications
received



13 %

Percentage of
caseloads with
employment earnings



\$884

Average monthly
employment
earnings

Population Specific Information



68 %

Singles without
dependents



27 %

Lone parent
families



5 %

Couples with
or without
dependents

2.4

Years

Average time
on Assistance

\$733

The maximum
amount a Single on
Ontario works
receives per month



Information Bulletin

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- Financial assistance to help you cover the costs of your basic needs (example: food and housing costs)
- Employment assistance to help you prepare for and find a job.

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SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY CITY OF STRATFORD REPORT

Children's Services

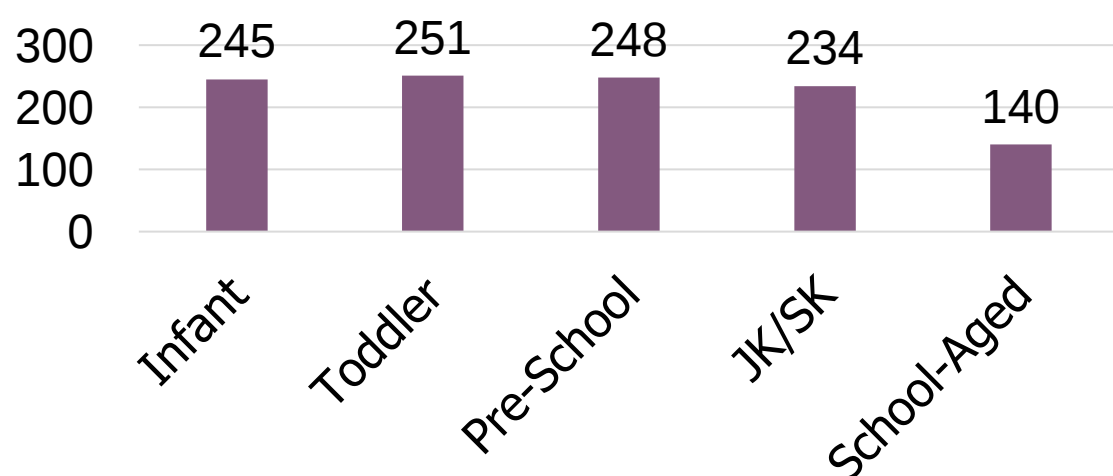
1,118

Total number of children on the child care waitlist applying from Stratford

36 %

Percentage of the total child care waitlist applying from Stratford

Age Category on the waitlist –
Applying from Stratford



EarlyON - Stratford

178

Unique children (0-6 years) served

149

Unique parents/ caregivers served

351

Visits by children (0-6 years)

280

Visits by parents/ caregivers

Social Housing

271

Total Households on the centralized waitlist applying from Stratford

Unit Size

1 Bedroom	69%
2 Bedroom	11%
3 Bedroom	11%
4+ Bedroom	9%

Applicant Type

Single/Couple	60%
Family	29%
Senior	11%

41 %

Percentage of the total centralized waitlist applying from Stratford

Priority Status

Chronological Order	83%
Homeless	10%
Special Provincial Priority (SPP)*	7%

*SPP: Survivor of domestic abuse or trafficking

Ontario Works

498

Total number of active cases in Stratford

59 %

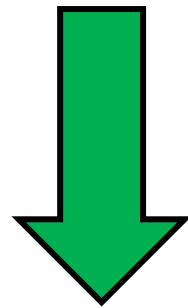
Percentage of the total Ontario Works caseload that are in Stratford

SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY CHILDREN'S SERVICES REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

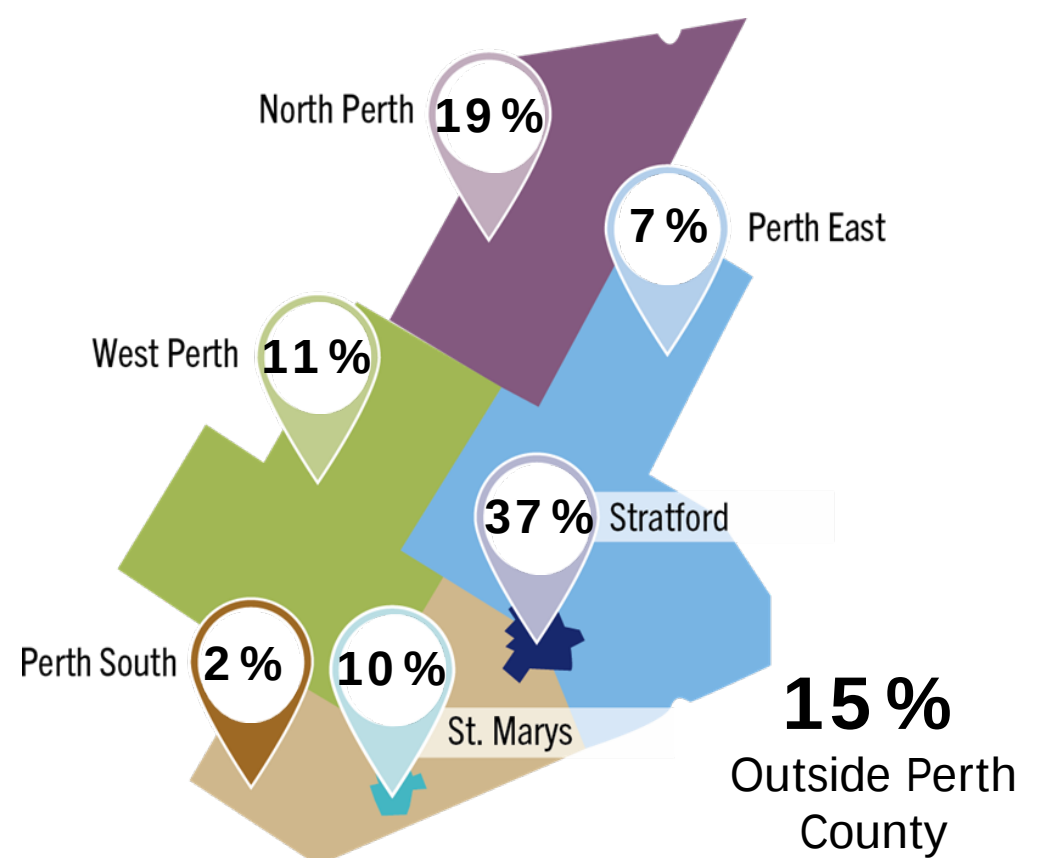
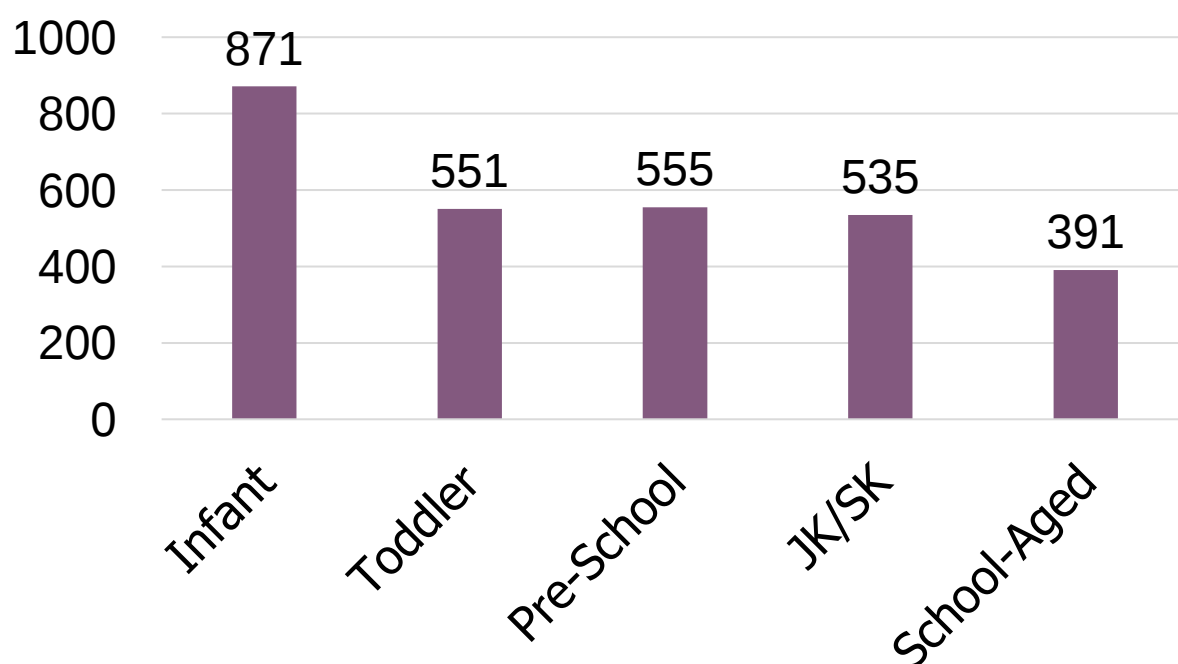
2,903

Total number of children on the child care waitlist



This is a decrease from July 2025, when there were **3,065** children on the child care waitlist

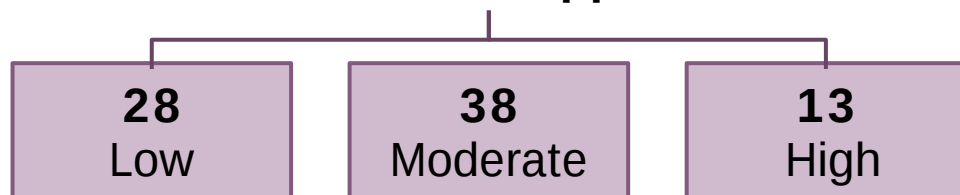
Age Category on the waitlist



Resource Consulting

79 Total children supported by the Program

Level of Support



EarlyON

568

Unique children (0-6 years) served

406

Unique parents/ caregivers served

1,837

Visits by children (0-6 years)

1,336

Visits by parents/ caregivers

i Information Bulletin

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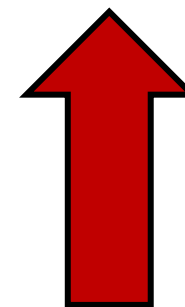
SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY HOMELESSNESS REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys



154

Total number of households experiencing homelessness



This is an increase from July 2025, when there were **144** households experiencing homelessness



10

New households entering into homelessness



2

Households returned to service area or reconnected with services



0

Households who lost their housing



1

Households who became housed



1

Households who left the service area or had no contact with service provider

Population Specific Information

120 Single Adults

17 Youth (16-24)

17 Families

133 Chronic

39 Unsheltered

21 Identify as Indigenous

Information Bulletin

A variety of different factors can contribute to an individual's experience of homelessness. Often, people experience homelessness when all other options have been exhausted, and/or they are dealing with circumstances that make it difficult to maintain housing. Some of these obstacles that may lead people to their experiences of homelessness include:

- Eviction
- The affordable housing crisis
- Coping with mental illnesses or addictions, which makes it difficult to maintain housing

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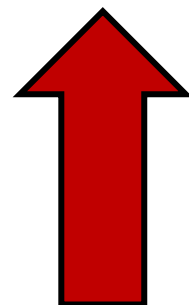


SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY SOCIAL HOUSING REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

675

Total number of Households
on the centralized waitlist



This is an increase from July 2025, when there were **656** households on the centralized waitlist

Unit Size

1 Bedroom	63%
2 Bedroom	15%
3 Bedroom	12%
4+ Bedroom	11%

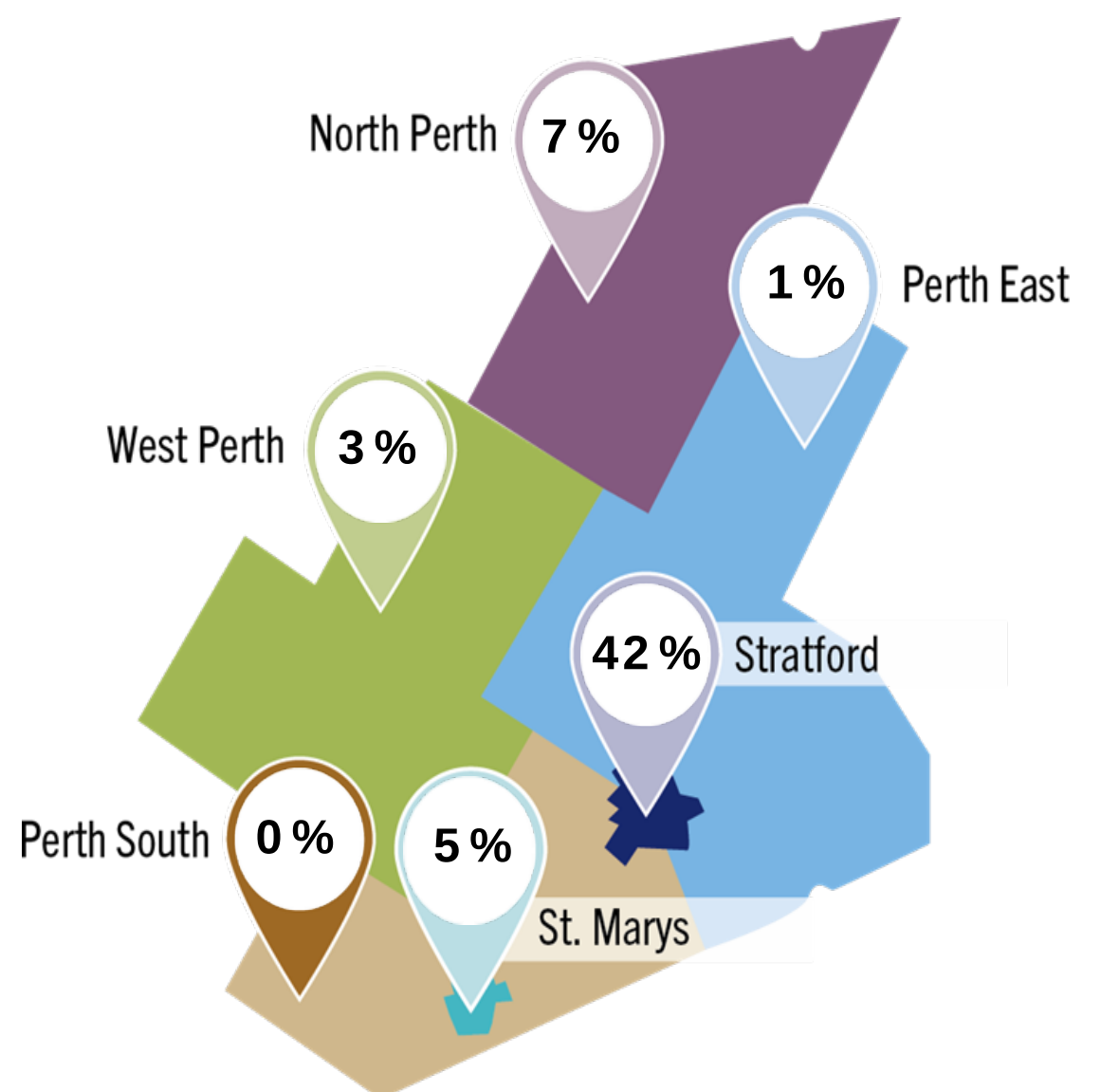
Applicant Type

Single/Couple	53%
Family	35%
Senior	12%

Priority Status

Chronological Order	86%
Homeless	8%
Special Provincial Priority (SPP)*	6%

*SPP: Survivor of domestic abuse or trafficking



Unknown: **7 %**

Outside Perth County: **35 %**

*Current applicant address

Move ins & Move outs

6 Total number of move outs

4 Total number of move ins

Maintenance



178

Number of
Work orders
requested

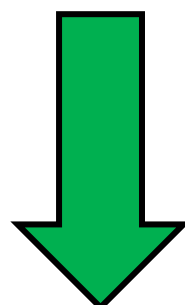
For more information about housing services and supports please
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SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY ONTARIO WORKS REPORT

Stratford, Perth County, & St. Marys

839 Total number of
active caseloads



This is a decrease from July
2025, when there were **846**
active cases

50 Total number of active
temporary care cases*

*If you are an adult and you are temporarily responsible
for the care of a child who is in financial need, you may be
eligible for temporary care assistance on their behalf.



22 %

Percentage of
caseload
terminations exiting
to employment



7 %

Percentage
of Caseload
terminated



79

New applications
received



13 %

Percentage of
caseloads with
employment earnings



\$932

Average monthly
employment
earnings

Population Specific Information



68 %

Singles without
dependents



27 %

Lone parent
families



5 %

Couples with
or without
dependents

**2.4
Years**

Average time
on Assistance

\$733

The maximum
amount a Single on
Ontario works
receives per month



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SOCIAL SERVICES MONTHLY CITY OF STRATFORD REPORT

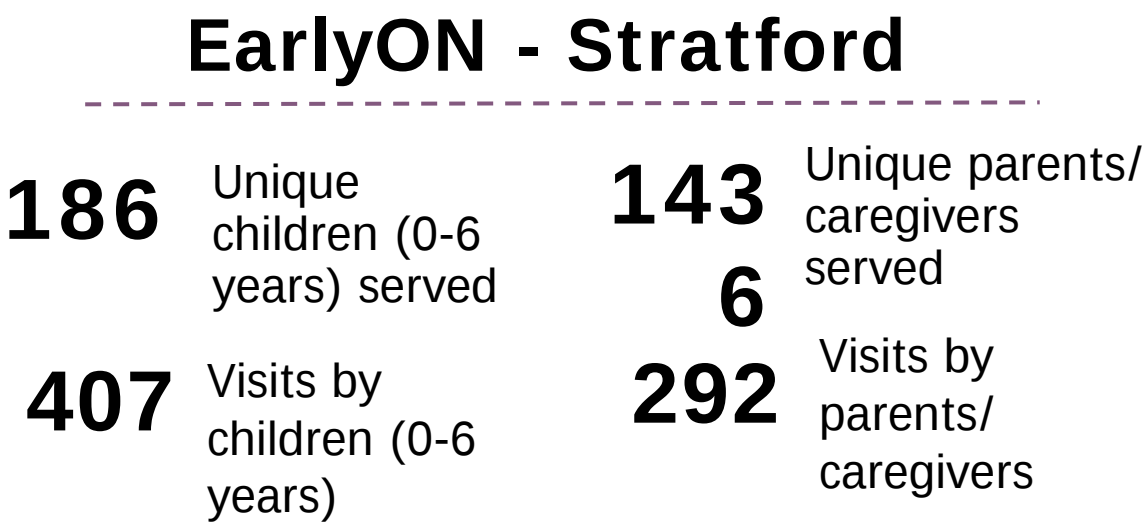
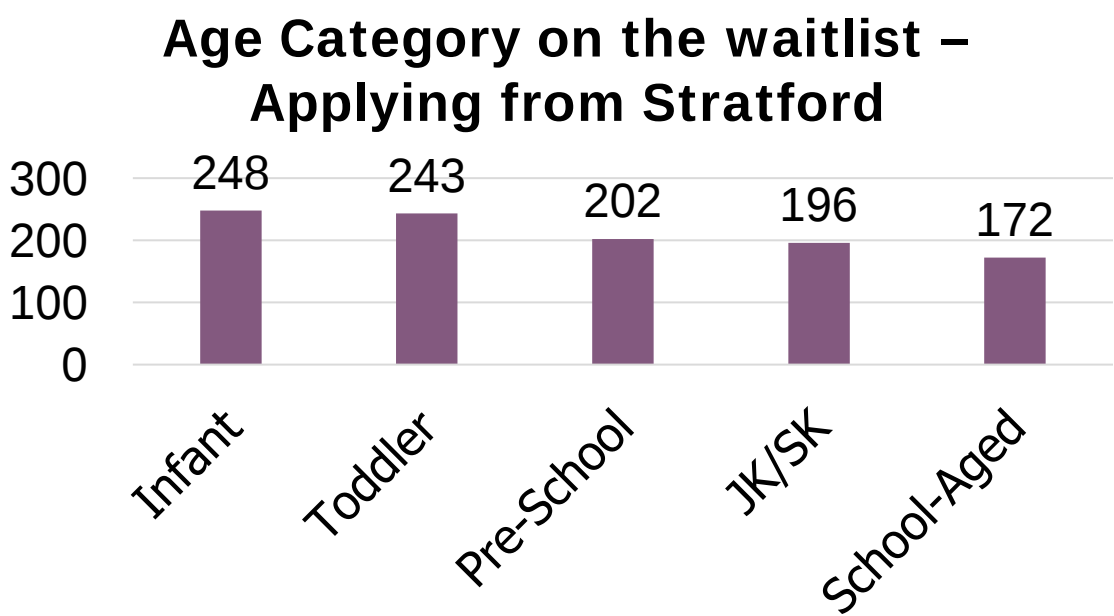
Children’s Services

1,061

Total number of children on the child care waitlist applying from Stratford

37 %

Percentage of the total child care waitlist applying from Stratford



Social Housing

286

Total Households on the centralized waitlist applying from Stratford

Unit Size

1 Bedroom	69%
2 Bedroom	11%
3 Bedroom	10%
4+ Bedroom	9%

Applicant Type

Single/Couple	59%
Family	29%
Senior	12%

42 %

Percentage of the total centralied waitlist applying from Stratford

Priority Status

Chronological Order	80%
Homeless	12%
Special Provincial Priority (SPP)*	8%

*SPP: Survivor of domestic abuse or trafficking

Ontario Works

503

Total number of active cases in Stratford

60 %

Percentage of the total Ontario Works caseload that are in Stratford