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I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

In late 2022, the Prince Edward Island Department of Housing, Land and Communities engaged AOR Solutions to conduct a needs analysis for Kings County, Prince Edward Island, to better understand the current housing needs of the region for out-of-the cold programming, emergency shelter, transitional supports, and affordable housing. In April 2023, the Department was restructured as the Department of Housing, Land and Communities. This report builds upon the Community Needs Assessment on Emergency Shelters that was completed in November 2019, prepared for the Department by AOR Solutions.

Housing in PEI

Communities need to have adequate and affordable housing to meet the needs of households of all income levels. Individuals and families may require different housing at different times in their life. The housing continuum in PEI includes: Safety Net, Housing with Supports and Market Housing (see Figure 1: Housing in PEI¹).



Figure 1: Housing Continuum in PEI

¹ Retrieved from Government of Prince Edward Island. [Housing Assistance | Government of Prince Edward Island](#)

SAFETY NET

Emergency Shelter – This is short-term shelter for people in crisis. This type of housing is provided either by a non-profit organization or by the Government of Prince Edward Island (the Province). In addition to overnight shelter, some emergency shelters also provide meals and support services to those who stay there. Stays are intended to be short-term.

Short-Term Supportive Housing – This type of housing is usually provided by non-profit organizations or by the Province as a step between Emergency Shelter and some type of Housing with Supports. There are different service delivery models, including single sites and scattered sites using motel and hotel accommodations. Stays are short-term, and the supportive services offered align with the need.

HOUSING WITH SUPPORTS

Long-Term Supportive Housing – Housing providers offer long-term housing with ongoing links to supportive services aligned with need. This type of housing may be operated by private business, non-profit organizations or by the Province.

Subsidized Rental Housing – This is housing that is financially supported in part or in full by the Province or by a community organization, depending on the core housing need of a family or individual. Support maybe offered in the form of a social housing unit, a mobile rental voucher or a rental supplement; tenants pay rent that is less than market value.

MARKET HOUSING

Rental Housing – This is both purpose-built units constructed for the purpose of long-term rental tenure as well as private housing that is rented. Dwelling types can include both multi-unit (apartments, townhomes, secondary suites or duplexes) and single detached housing.

Ownership Housing – Home ownership can include single detached housing, semi or attached dwellings or multi-unit dwellings. There are multiple ownership structures including fee simple (freehold), condominium ownership or shared equity, such as cooperatives.

Definitions

Homelessness

Homelessness is the situation of an individual or family who does not have a permanent address or residence; the living situation of an individual or family who does not have stable, permanent, appropriate housing, or the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it.

Chronic homelessness is defined as those who are currently homeless and have a total of at least six months of homelessness in the past year or who have had recurrent experiences of homelessness of a total of 18 months or more over the past three years. It does not include situations where individuals have access to secure, permanent housing or time spent in transitional housing or public institutions such as hospitals or correctional facilities.²

It is important to note that homelessness describes a range of housing and shelter circumstances, with people being without any shelter at one end, and being insecurely housed at the other.³

Reaching Home, Canada's national strategy on homelessness, uses the Canadian Definition of Homelessness⁴ which provides a typology to describe this range:

1. Unsheltered
2. Emergency Sheltered
3. Provisionally Accommodated
4. At Risk of Homelessness

Coordinated Access

A process through which individuals and families experiencing homelessness or risk of homelessness are provided access to housing and support services based on a standardized set of procedures for client intake, assessment of need, and matching and referral to housing. A key element of coordinated access is the development of a By Names List, one master list within an area, in this case all of PEI, which is a real-time, up to date list of people known to be experiencing homelessness.

² Employment and Social Development Canada definitions.

³ Gaetz, S.; Barr, C.; Friesen, A.; Harris, B.; Hill, C.; Kovacs-Burns, K.; Pauly, B.; Pearce, B.; Turner, A.; Marsolais, A. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press

⁴ Ibid.

Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) is a data collection and case management system that allows multiple service providers in the same community to access real-time data, including a By Names List, and to increase coordination of services. HIFIS supports daily operations, data collection and the development of a national portrait on homelessness. In Prince Edward Island, HIFIS is maintained by the John Howard Society of PEI, the designated community entity under the federal *Reaching Home* strategy.

Core Housing Need

As defined by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, a household is considered to be in core housing need if:

- A household is below one or more of the adequacy, suitability and affordability standards;
- The household would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax household income to access local housing that meets all three standards.

This standard is used by the Province's Department of Housing, Land and Communities to determine programs to address housing needs.

Housing Need Standards – Adequacy, Suitability, Affordability

Using the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation definition for core housing need, there are three standards for housing: adequacy, suitability, and affordability.

Adequacy refers to the state of repair of a home. If a home is in need of major repairs, such as defective plumbing, wiring, or structural repairs to walls, floors, or ceilings, and the household cannot afford the repairs or afford the rent or purchase of an alternative unit in the local housing market, they are considered to be in core housing need.

Suitability refers to whether there are enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of the residents in the household, according to National Occupancy Standard requirements⁵ - generally:

- A maximum of two persons per bedroom;
- Household members, of any age, living as part of a married or common-law couple share a

⁵ National Occupancy Standard, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/professionals/industry-innovation-and-leadership/industry-expertise/affordable-housing/provincial-territorial-agreements/investment-in-affordable-housing/national-occupancy-standard>

bedroom with their spouse or common-law partner;

- Parents in a one-parent family, of any age, have a separate bedroom;
- Household members aged 18 or over have a separate bedroom - except those living as part of a married or common-law couple;
- Household members under 18 years old of the same sex share a bedroom - except parents in a one-parent family and those living as part of a married or common-law couple; and
- Household members under 5 years old of the opposite sex share a bedroom if doing so would reduce the number of required bedrooms. This situation would arise only in households with an odd number of males under 18, an odd number of females under 18, and at least one female and one male under the age of 5.

An exception to the above is a household consisting of one individual living alone. Such a household would not need a bedroom (i.e., the individual may live in a studio apartment and be considered to be living in suitable accommodations).

If the home is unsuitable and the household cannot afford the rent or purchase of an alternative unit in the local housing market, the household is considered to be in core housing need.

Affordability is a measure of the proportion of before-tax household income spent on housing when no other units are available in the local housing market. If a household pays more than 30% of its before-tax household income on housing, and there is no choice but to do so in the local housing market, the housing is not affordable, and the household is in core housing need.

Core housing need assesses households living in private residences. It doesn't include farms, reserves or households with incomes less than \$0 and shelter-cost-to-income ratios of 100% or more.⁶

It should be noted that when it comes to housing need, the focus of affordability tends to be in the low-middle income brackets and the availability of options.

⁶ Identifying Core Housing Need. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/professionals/housing-markets-data-and-research/housing-research/core-housing-need/identifying-core-housing-need>

II. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objectives

The objectives of this Needs Analysis are:

- To understand the current housing needs of the region for out-of-the-cold, transitional supports, emergency shelter and affordable housing;
- To understand the population needs such as women, children, men, 2SLGBTQ+, those with active addiction, etc.;
- To understand how current services in Kings County region are being utilized over the past six months, and by whom;
- To understand what services are currently in place in the region to support those individuals experiencing, or at risk of, experiencing homelessness;
- To understand the capacity of existing service providers and shelter providers to meet the needs of Kings County or whether are people are travelling for support;
- To understand what case management supports are currently offered, by who and with what caseloads; and
- To provide advice on potential operating model and costing to best address identified gaps.

Key Audiences

The key audience for this needs assessment are decision-makers within the Department of Housing, Land and Communities.

Project Approach and Methodology

This research built upon the Community Needs Assessment on Emergency Shelters that was completed in November 2019, prepared for the Department by AOR Solutions.

A five-phase approach was developed for this project:

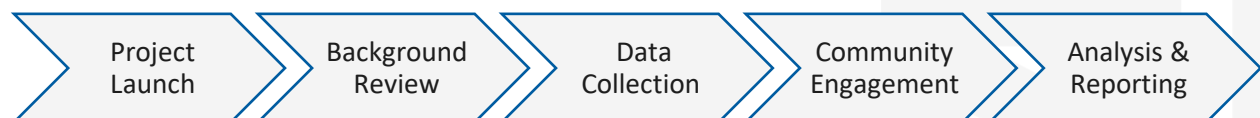


Figure 2: Phased Project Approach

This needs assessment has been developed through a participatory, community engagement approach that has included both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to guide the development of the report.

The Background Review included review of documents and data such as:

- Final Report – Community Partners Workshop, June 16, 2022
- Community Needs Assessment on Emergency Shelters 2022 Update
- 2015/16 Community Health Assessments of Montague by UPEI & Dalhousie University
- 211 listing of local services in Kings County and relevant province-wide service
- Point in Time Count 2021

Data collection methods have included:

- Data collected from Statistics Canada;
- Data reports on housing need from Blooming House, HIFIS, Shelter Support Line, and Park Street;
- Community service provider engagement workshop; and
- Key informant interviews with government agencies and community organizations.

Limitations

Data challenges are the primary limitations for this analysis:

- Availability of data for Kings County – many identified Queens County as their most recent community, regardless of whether or not they might have originated from Kings County.
- Data format – some available data was provided in such a summarized fashion as to make analysis impossible.
- Data timing – most of the data provided was outside of the most recent 6-month time period included in the scope and shifts and trends had to be identified largely through key informant interviews and workshop discussions.
- The more rural nature of Kings County suggests a greater reliance on informal support networks outside of formal systems and tracking, making it more challenging to identify and quantify individuals in need of housing support services.
- Government housing is provided based on highest need. The Province collects information on preferences, based on where units are offered; if no housing is currently provided in a

community, that place would not be listed as a preferred location or area of interest. As a result, it can be hard to identify community-specific need based on government housing lists.

- Although there has been a concerted effort to develop a By Names List under Coordinated Access, maintained in HIFIS by the John Howard Society, it has not been universally adopted by all community partners. The challenges have been mostly three-fold: 1) staffing challenges in the past year; 2) administrative challenges associated with multiple client and note tracking systems; and 3) frustration on the part of community partners as the incredibly tight housing market has meant that short and medium term supportive and transitional housing units have not been becoming available. As a result, the By Names List is not currently operating to its fullest potential to support those experiencing homelessness as it had been hoped it would in this stage of its implementation.
- Many of the community groups and/service organizations that provide shelter supports are based in Charlottetown and may not have a consistent on the ground presence in Kings County, which limits their connection and knowledge of informal community supports and ability to quantify housing need which exists outside the formal system.

III. BACKGROUND CONTEXT

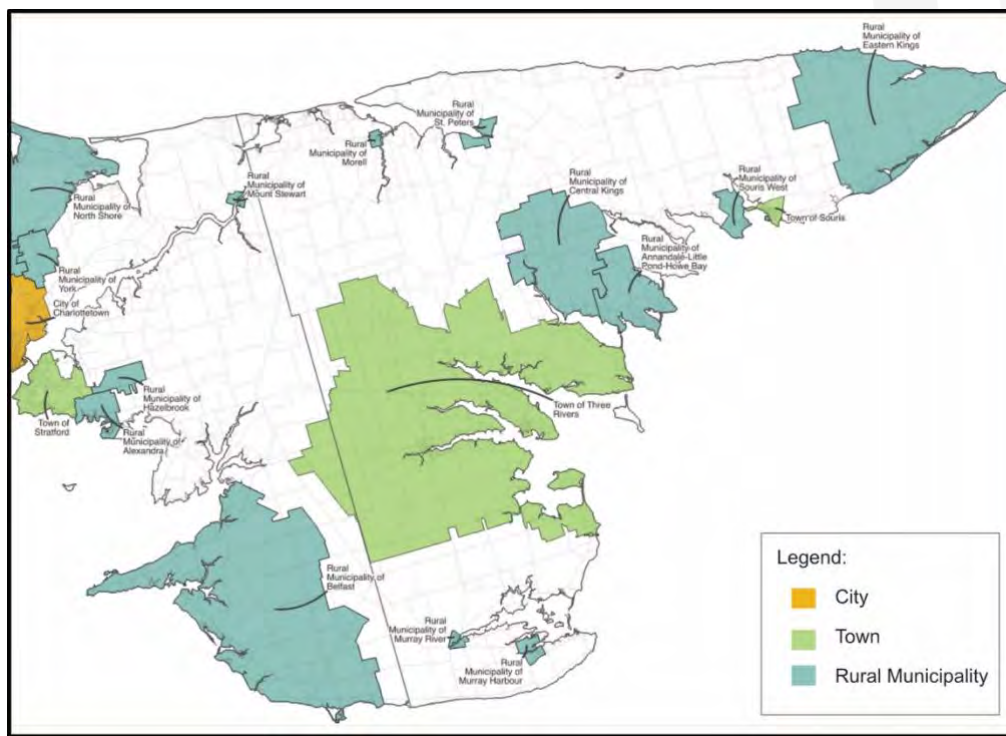


Figure 3: Map of Kings County, Prince Edward Island

Regional Characteristics

Kings County, Prince Edward Island, has a 2021 population of 18,327, an increase of 6.8% from 2016. The area, approximately 1,688 square kilometres, is made up of a combination of unincorporated and municipal areas, including Prince Edward Island's fourth largest municipality, the Town of Three Rivers, along with the Town of Souris, and the rural municipalities of Annandale-Little Pond-Howe Bay, Central Kings, Eastern Kings, Morell, Murray Harbour, Murray River, St. Peters, and Souris West. As of 2021, the region has 9948 private dwellings, 77.2% of which were occupied by usual residents.⁷

Census data provides a snapshot of demographic and housing in the county, but assessing the housing needs in particular is not straightforward. Social needs identified for the region range from housing security and affordability, food security, availability of social services, and transportation options.

Population and 2021 Census Data Highlights

In the most recent census period, Kings County experienced a high level of growth, reversing a decline in population between 2011-2016. The increasing population and region-specific household characteristics are linked to the ability of the local housing stock to meet the housing need and the ability of household maintainers to achieve housing stability, with implications for the likelihood of local need for emergency and transitional housing supports.

- Census figures show a shift in growth trends over a short period of time:
 - 2011: 17,990
 - 2016: 17,154 | -4.6% change
 - 2021: 18,327 | 6.8% change
- From 2011 to 2021 the region experienced 1.9% growth, compared with 10.1% provincially.
- There is a slightly higher percentage of the population in the 0-14 and 65+ age groups compared with provincial breakdowns (2021).
- In the region, 30.4% are single person households (2335 households), 39.1% are 2-person households (2350 households) and 13.2% 3-person household (2021).
- Average household size: 2.3 persons

⁷ 2021 Census, Statistics Canada.

AFFORDABILITY

- Shelter costs, tenants (2021): Median \$705 (\$603 in 2016), Average \$738 (\$636 in 2016).
- Households spending 30% or more on shelter costs (2021):
 - Kings County: 21% tenant households, 8.6% owner households, 11% of all households
 - PEI: 30.3% tenant households, 8.8% owner households
- Households in core housing need:
 - Kings County: 21.1% tenant households, 7.8% owner households
 - PEI: 14.1% tenant households, 3.8% owner households
- Tenant households in subsidized housing: 32.4% Kings (PEI: 18%)

Table 1: Affordability, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

	Kings		PEI	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
Households				
Tenants	1300	1465	17540	19985
% subsidized	23.5	32.4	14.8	18
Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs (%)	31.7	21	36.3	30.3
Tenant households in core housing need (%)		21.1		14.1
Owners	5,780	6,085	40,830	43,730
Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs (%)	10	8.6	11.1	8.8
Owner households in core housing need (%)		7.8		3.8
Median monthly shelter costs – rented dwellings	603	705	793	940
% increase	16.92		18.54	
Average monthly shelter costs – rented dwellings	636	738	818	996
% increase	16.04		21.76	
Percentage of households - tenants	18.0%	19.0%	29.6%	31.0%
Percentage of households - owner	81.9%	80.8%	70.3%	68.8%
Change in % tenants (2016-2021)	5.6		3.33	

Table 2: Dwelling State, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

Dwelling State – 2021 Census	Number	Percentage
Total - Occupied private dwellings by housing indicators - 25% sample data	7675	
Total - Households 'spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' or 'not suitable' or 'major repairs needed'	1645	21%
Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs only	735	45%
Not suitable only	195	12%
Major repairs needed only	605	37%
'Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' and 'not suitable'	0	0%
'Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' and 'major repairs needed'	95	6%
'Not suitable' and 'major repairs needed'	20	1%
'Spending 30% or more of income on shelter costs' and 'not suitable' and 'major repairs needed'	0	0%
Acceptable housing	6035	79%

Table 3: Low Income Cut-Offs– After Tax, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

Total - LICO low-income status in 2020 for the population in private households to whom the low-income concept is applicable		
	Number	% of those in low-income
In low income based on the Low-income cut-offs, after tax (LICO-AT)	610	3.5%
0 to 17 years	135	22.1%
(0 to 5 years)	35	5.7%
18 to 64 years	420	68.9%
65 years and over	50	8.2%
Prevalence of low income based on the Low-income cut-offs, after tax (LICO-AT) (%)	3.5	
0 to 17 years (%)	4.1	
(0 to 5 years) (%)	4	
18 to 64 years (%)	4.2	
65 years and over (%)	1.3	

SPENDING MORE THAN 30% ON SHELTER COSTS

Statistics Canada tracks owner and tenant households with a total household income greater than zero; in non-farm; non-reserve private dwellings by shelter-cost-to-income ratios to determine if the household is spending more or less than 30% of income on shelter costs.

Table 4: More than 30% on Shelter Costs, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

	Households 30%+ shelter costs – Kings County 2021	Households 30%+ shelter costs – PEI 2021
Total	11%	16%
Owner	8.6%	8.8%
Renter	21%	30.3%

Some key highlights from the data that provide insight into the current situation in Kings County include:

- A higher percentage of the population in Kings County is identified as being in core housing need as compared to the rest of PEI.
- A higher percentage of the population of Kings County resides in subsidized housing compared to the province as a whole.
- Despite the fact that shelter costs haven't risen as fast in Kings County as compared to the province as a whole, the data indicates there are challenges in obtaining and maintaining affordable housing.

See **Appendix A** for additional demographic data from the Statistics Canada 2021 Census.

HOUSING PRICES

Housing prices have risen substantially in Prince Edward Island over the past 5 years. The Canadian Real Estate Association uses the MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) to track the price of homes. The overall MLS® HPI composite/single-family benchmark price in Prince Edward Island was \$334,900 in March 2023, nearly unchanged, down only 0.8% compared to March 2022.⁸ The average price of homes sold in March 2023 in Prince Edward Island was \$401,940, a marginal decline of 2.7% from March 2022.⁹ The slight cooling of the housing market from 2022 has likely been impacted by recent policy changes for home buyers and increased cost of borrowing with rising inflation.

Table 5: Single-Detached Sales and Media Price by Area, Canadian Real Estate Association

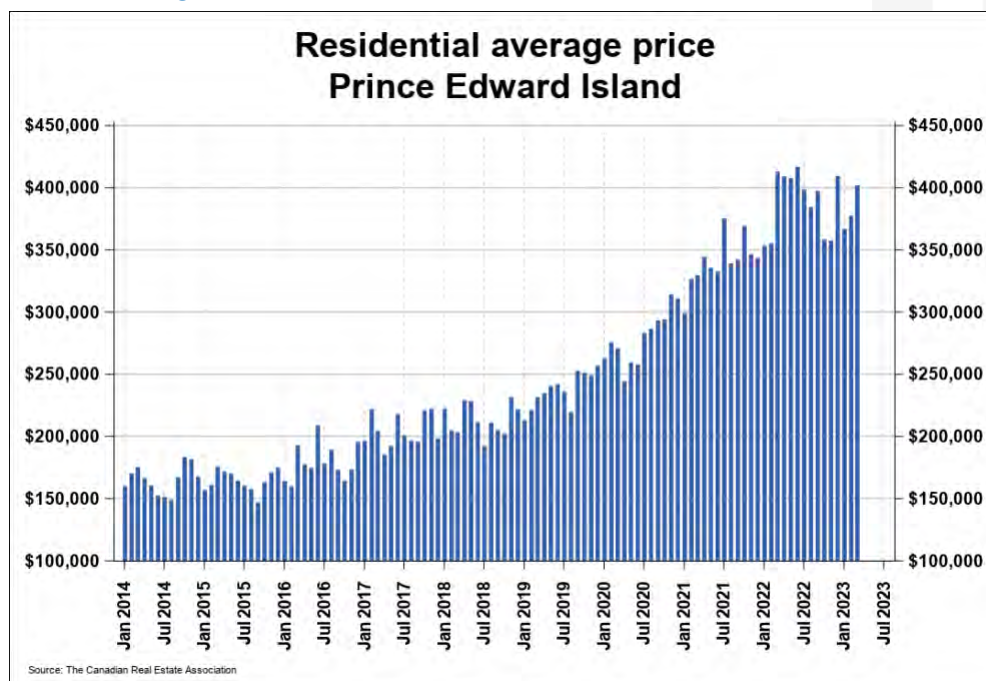
By Area	Q4-2022 Units Sold	Q4-2021 Units Sold	Year-over- Year % Change	Q4-2022 Median Price	Q4-2021 Median Price	Year-over- Year % Change
Western PEI	41	47	-12.8	\$265,000	\$215,000	23.3

⁸ PEI Real Estate Association. Data to October 2022. [Prince Edward Island Real Estate Association | CREA Statistics](#)

⁹ PEI Real Estate Association. Data to October 2022. [Prince Edward Island Real Estate Association | CREA Statistics](#)

Summerside	38	53	-28.3	\$293,000	\$286,000	2.4
North and South Shore	63	107	-41.1	\$377,500	\$372,500	1.3
Cornwall	18	26	-30.8	\$522,000	\$391, 950	33.2
Charlottetown	64	90	-28.9	\$427,450	\$411,000	4.0
Stratford	18	34	-47.1	\$527,500	\$477,500	10.5
Eastern PEI	61	96	-36.5	\$315,000	\$295,000	6.8

Table 6: Average Home Prices in Prince Edward Island Since 2014¹⁰



Housing Continuum Explained

SAFETY NET

The Prince Edward Island Department of Housing, Land and Communities provides a range of Safety Net services.

¹⁰ PEI Real Estate Association. [Prince Edward Island Real Estate Association | CREA Statistics](#)

Shelter Support Line

The Shelter Support Line was established in December 2018 to respond to inquiries and support vulnerable Islanders in need of emergency shelter. Staff are trained to listen, ask questions, and respond appropriately to requests. Staff are also trained in safe and appropriate diversion from emergency shelter if possible as research shows if individuals do not enter the emergency shelter system, successful housing is more likely to be the outcome.

Emergency Shelter Housing

There are no emergency shelters in Kings County for persons experiencing homelessness. Individuals needing emergency shelter in Kings County are directed to shelters in Queens County, including Bedford MacDonald House, Blooming House, Park Street Emergency Shelter or Anderson House. In some circumstance, where options are available, arrangements can be made to provide short-term accommodations in Kings County.

Table 7: Charlottetown Based Services

Facility	Capacity	Services
Bedford MacDonald House Operated by the Salvation Army	10-bed men's shelter for individuals who are male identifying and are 18 years of age and older. The space is accessible.	Shelter, support and compassion to men experiencing homelessness. They operate from 8pm to 8am daily. Clients can stay for up to 30 days.
Blooming House Women's Shelter Registered charitable, non-profit organization	8-bed shelter for woman identified individuals aged 18 and up.	Low barrier and provides a harm reduction, safe overnight space. They are open 7 days a week from 4pm to 8am. Blooming House provides food and a place to prepare meals, access to showers and laundry facilities, storage for up to 72 hours, and will refer to services.
Park Street Emergency Shelter Department of Housing, Land and Communities	50-bed shelter, including accessible units for persons with physical mobility challenges. It is gender inclusive and is available for any person aged 18 and older.	Provides a safe place for adults experiencing homelessness to spend the night. Overnight shelter is open 7 days a week, 12 hours a day from 8:00pm to 8:00am. Serves people with pets.
Anderson House	8-bed emergency shelter for women, trans and non-binary individuals and their children who are in need of	Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and include emergency shelter, safety planning, advocacy, child

PEI Family Violence Prevention Services	safety because of violence in their lives. When possible, they reserve two beds for women experiencing homelessness.	care services, accompaniment to meetings and follow up support. Note: They manage short-term transitional housing and permanent housing. Ten new transitional units are available, two are for persons with physical disabilities and the others provide a mixture of short-term and permanent housing.
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HOUSING WITH SUPPORTS

The Prince Edward Island Department of Housing, Land and Communities provides short and long-term supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness or for disabled individuals and families and subsidized rental housing in the form of government owned social housing units (PEI Housing Corporation), a mobile rental voucher or a rental supplement.

Long Term Supportive Housing

The PEI Housing Corporation has units located throughout Kings County, for both families and seniors. Rent is usually geared to 25% of income.

Table 8: PEI Housing Corporation Seniors and Family Units in Kings County¹¹

Note: includes 4 garden suites

Location	# of units - Senior	# of units - Family
Souris	86	5
Rollo Bay	14	
St. Peters	9	
Cardigan	3	1
Morell	12	
Montague	91	15
Murray Harbour	7	
Murray River	6	
Belfast	6	
Georgetown	116	6
Vernon Bridge		1
Total	250	28

¹¹ As of April 1, 2023. Data supplied by PEI Department of Housing, Land and Communities May 2023.

Table 9: Family Housing Operated by Family Housing Boards in Kings County¹²

Location	# of Units
Georgetown	27
Montague	62
Souris	36

Subsidized Rental Housing

Rent supplements refer to an agreement between a private landlord and Housing Services where the landlord maintains the properties and Housing Services selects from the Social Housing Registry and deals with tenant issues. Rent supplements are attached to the landlords and stay with units. Payment can be provided to the tenant, or directly to the property owner. Rent supplements are also available from other government and NGO sources.

Mobile rental vouchers are a financial benefit issued direct to the tenant to support individuals and families to live in market rental accommodation. Mobile rental vouchers move with the tenant.

Table 10: Housing, Land and Communities Subsidized Housing in Kings County¹³

Type	Senior	Family	Total- Island Wide	Kings County Only *Includes senior and family tenants
PEIHC Tenants	1270	311	1581	
Rent Supplement	25	28	350	53
Mobile Rental Vouchers	815	458	1273	130

Social Housing Registry

The Prince Edward Island Department of Housing, Land and Communities maintains the PEI Social Housing Registry which includes the number of Islanders who are eligible for Family or Senior Housing programs and are awaiting a placement that best suits their needs, including location, type of unit, and size of unit.

Table 11: Numbers on Social Housing Registry as of April 17, 2023¹⁴

	Seniors Housing Program	Family Housing Program	Total
Kings County	24	52	76
Total across PEI	142	302	444

¹² As of April 1, 2023. Data supplied by PEI Department of Housing, Land and Communities May 2023.

¹³ As of April 1, 2023. Data supplied by PEI Department of Housing, Land and Communities May 2023.

¹⁴ Housing, Land and Communities Website. [Housing Assistance | Government of Prince Edward Island](#). Includes data from all of Prince County, including Summerside. Last retrieved May 2, 2023

IV. DATA INSIGHTS

2021 Point in Time Findings

The last Point in Time survey on homelessness in PEI was conducted in 2021. At that time there were 147 recorded individuals experiencing homelessness, including rural areas, but the information was not broken down by region. It is important to note the methodology used from previous years with in-person street level approaches was not used in 2021 due to concerns around COVID.

There were several shifts from 2018:

- Increase in the number of males experiencing homelessness, and a decrease in the number of females experiencing homelessness.
- Increase in those in the 18-54 age range, and fewer in 16-18 age range
- Increase in individuals staying in transitional housing and emergency shelters
- Decrease in number of hidden homeless, those experiencing homelessness for more than 3 months

The survey results identified the following factors leading to homelessness:

- 52% issues with addictions & mental health
- 19% experienced domestic violence
- 17% indicated landlord/tenant issues
- 9% had been incarcerated
- 3% indicated lack of income or unsuitable housing
- 8% indicated most recent housing loss was related to pandemic

Shelter Support Line – Calls Originating from Kings County

The following table on the Shelter Support Line – Kings County Call Volume does not include any ‘unknowns’ where location was not provided, and no information is available on number of repeat calls.

Table 12: Shelter Support Line – Kings County Call Volume as of March 2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Call Volume	Call Volume	Call Volume	Call Volume	Call Volume
Jan		2	0	1	7
Feb		3	0	2	3
Mar		2	1	0	12
Apr		3	3	1	
May		0	2	7	
Jun		0	2	5	
Jul		2	0	1	
Aug	3	0	0	6	
Sept	1	1	1	5	
Oct	1	1	0	3	
Nov	0	2	5	7	
Dec	0	0	1	12	

Table 13: Shelter Support Line- Kings County Calls by Service

	2022		As of March 2023	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Immediate Shelter	16	6	7	
Other	2	1	4	3
Planning for Future Needs	2	6	2	2
General Info	6	5	5	2
Taxi Service			1	

Park Street Emergency Shelter Usage

Table 14: Park Street Shelter - Kings County Clients

	# of distinct clients	Male Presenting	Female Presenting
December	9	8	1
2023			
January	11	9	2
February	12	10	2
March	13	11	2

There are a total of 50 beds available, and since opening in December 2022 client occupancy has been at capacity. Most stays at the Park Street Emergency Shelter are for multiple nights. Staff have observed that the clients are relatively consistent from month to month.

Given the short period of time for which the Park Street Emergency Shelter has been in operation, it is still early to be able to identify trends.

Blooming House Women's Shelter

Blooming House generally sees much higher bed nights in the summer, but the length of stay by guests tends to be fairly consistent in the number of nights stayed each month when they are there. In terms of trends, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the shelter to transition guests out of shelter and into their own stable housing arrangements. There has been a significant drop in the number of women they are transitioning out of shelter, with approximately half of the number of guests being transitioned into their own housing in 2022 as compared to 2021, and no transitions to date in 2023.

Stays at Blooming House are confirmed on a nightly basis, but a waitlist is maintained. In January of 2023, there were 10 instances of a waitlist in January, 2 in February, 5 in March, and 3 to the middle of April. Tracking of wait lists only started in 2022 as there were no issues at being at capacity prior to that. The last time there was no waitlist was in June 2022, with a peak of 37 in September of 2022. However, these numbers do not include the number of times a guest was turned away; it's possible that individuals on the waitlist were ultimately given a bed because someone else cancelled a reservation.

In 2023 to date, the shelter has been fully at capacity on 13 nights, with the greatest number of nights being January. In 2022, the shelter was at full capacity on 86 nights, and 49 nights in 2021. In 2021, the shelter was only empty for 1 night, while 2022 had no nights empty.

In terms of guests indicating Kings County as their last place lived, there were 4 guests who had stayed at Blooming House from 2019 to 2022, two in the 18-25 age range, one in the 31-40 age range, and one in the 51-60 age range.

By Names List in HIFIS

The By Names List had 100 names on it in 2022, but it went to 248 in past few months. Due to challenges with reporting and with recording data in the HIFIS system, it is unclear if the list is accurate.

Only 9 individuals in the HIFIS database are identified as being from the Kings County region, 4 female presenting and 5 male. Those in the system included 2 couch surfing and one person living in a vehicle. Six clients were listed as being single, the others were listed as being in a family or being a family head.

Some clients may also be cross-referenced in housing navigator files but may not necessarily be in HIFIS resulting from a Park Street Emergency Shelter stay; they may still be in the system depending on where they originated. As noted elsewhere, given the informal nature of supports in rural PEI and changes over time in managing data entry on a consistent basis, it is likely that others in need may not be represented in the system.

211 Service

Supported by the United Way, 211 is a primary source of information for government and community-based, non-clinical health and social services in Prince Edward Island, and across Canada. The Kings County, Prince Edward Island agency listing provided included 48 agencies, including 10 municipalities and 14 provincial departments and agencies.

A small number of organizations and programs are not included on the 211 website listing but have their information provided to eligible callers. Further, the list of organizations in Kings County is not a complete list of service providers in the county as 211 sometimes lists a service with its umbrella organization, such as with seniors' clubs, recreation, or environmental groups, rather than listing all of the associated programs offered by those umbrella organizations. The service is also in process of compiling a list of the small community food cupboards which are not included in listings.

The terminology used to describe caller needs is determined by a standardized categorization tool used by all 211s. The needs terms fall under the categories of "taxonomy" and "AIRS Need Category." Information provided has been pulled from call reports. As not all call reports contain location information, the actual scope of need of callers is likely larger than listed in the attachments. Only data from call reports that were marked as Kings County have been included in counts in this Report.

211 community resource navigators had been polled about observed themes when answering calls from those who are currently unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused (not limited to Kings County but all across PEI). The themes were identified as:

- Renovictions
- Furniture storage (while looking for a place to live after an eviction and staying in a shelter)
- Hot meals (living in hotel temporarily without a means to cook food received from food bank)
- Pet friendly shelters
- Mental health support
- People who are employed but unable to find affordable housing

Although 211 is not a case management service, follow-ups are performed with callers when a navigator deems it necessary. The navigators also make multiple attempts if unable to connect with a caller who required follow-up.

Table 15: 211 Referrals for Kings County Clients

Referrals by Needs Category	2020	2021	2022	2023 to mid-April
Disaster services	4			
Food/Meals		11		3
Health	2			
Housing	4	10	34	8
Income Support/Assistance (including Fiona response)		2	179	11
Income Support/Financial Assistance (including 2022 Seniors Food Support Program)	2	12	200	2
Utility Assistance	1	5	16	

Table 16: Demographic Information Pertaining to 211 Housing Calls for Kings County (where collected)

2020	
Ages	
35-54 Adult	3
Gender	
Female	2
Males	1
Non-Binary	0
Caller	
Individual	2
Third Party (someone calling for someone in need of services)	1
2021	
Ages	
19-34 Young Adult	1
Gender	
Female	1
Males	
Non-Binary	

Caller	
Individual	1
Third Party (someone calling for someone in need of services)	
2022	
Ages	
19-34 Young Adult	2
35-54 Adult	2
55-64 Adult	3
65+ Adult	1
Family	2
Gender	
Female	7
Males	4
Non-Binary	
Multiple genders (family)	1
Caller	
Individual	8
Third Party (someone calling for someone in need of services)	2
2023	
Ages	
35-54 Adult	1
55-64 Adult	1
65+ Adult	1
Gender	
Female	1
Males	2
Non-Binary	
Caller	
Individual	3
Third Party (someone calling for someone in need of services)	

V. SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT FINDINGS FROM ENGAGEMENT

As part of this project, in addition to the background research, several key informant interviews were conducted (See **Appendix B** for a list of participants) and a community engagement workshop was held March 7, 2023.

The key themes from the engagement activities are outlined below.

Level of Need in Kings County

- There are strong indications that although the total numbers are still smaller than elsewhere in PEI, the need has increased in the past 6 months over the previous year in Kings County.
- The level of need may be misrepresented as there is no temporary shelter in Kings County, so individuals must access services in Charlottetown and therefore may be currently identifying as Charlottetown residents. As well, the location data is not always shared/captured.
- One key informant described personally housing people in need and assisting them to find housing, and that based on their experience, a small shelter in Kings County would be full if established. The individuals they assist are not necessarily in the system connected with Housing Assistance. These individuals are often young adults needing supports in developing life skills. They described that they usually support approximately 4 people per year, but it has been between 12-14 this past year. Most often it has been young men, but there have also been families needing assistance finding housing.
- Some key informants indicated they were not bothering to report people to the By Names List or provincial housing lists because a lack of available housing has meant that no one is moving off the waitlists.
- With the closest emergency shelter in Charlottetown, this has led to challenges for people needing to work or attend school in Kings County. The lack of transportation can be a real barrier for some.
- Although a partnership exists with the Rollo Bay Inn, it is not always convenient for those without a vehicle and sometimes staying in Charlottetown to access school, work and supports may be easier than staying in Kings County.
- Once services become available, even in the form of something like a community fridge, people start talking about, and acknowledging, need locally, where it might not have been raised previously if there were no service options at all.
- In some cases, individuals aged 17-20 might have a need, but might not have been in Child & Family Service programs previously. These individuals might also benefit from additional programming and supports.

- Key informants identified the need to build resiliency in the community to wrap around individuals and keep them in the community.
- Provide a multi-purpose, multi-unit facility that could provide community outreach services, a few beds for emergency shelter support, and a separate entrance for a unit that can be used for short-term transitional housing. The facility could also provide a warming centre, counselling, navigation to access government services, life skills or educational programs, computers, laundry, and a soup kitchen/coffee house.

Common Challenges of Those Unhoused

- A large number of those unhoused are also struggling with issues related to mental health and addictions. Many of these individuals have also experienced trauma. The complexity of their cases means that there may always be a requirement for some support services, and they may be best able to remain successfully housed in long-term supportive housing.
- An inadequate supply of housing across PEI is putting pressures on all areas within the housing wheel.
- Economic challenges, such as job loss, increasing cost of living and increasing housing costs are impacting the level of need.
- Family or intimate partner violence continues to be a reason why individuals and families are unhoused.
- Poverty and job loss lead to people being unhoused.

Economic Factors Impacting Housing Supply

Participants at the community engagement workshop discussion and in key informant interviews identified a number of economic factors that impact the financial feasibility of building of new affordable units:

- A tight labour force in construction, with a high demand for skilled tradespeople with the volume of current building that is happening, making it hard to recruit and costly to retain a workforce;
- The adoption of the National Building Code has introduced requirements for professional design and new building standards in some cases, which increases development and construction costs;
- Rising costs of construction materials, and costs of servicing lots and building infrastructure; and

- Rising interest rates have impacted the rate of return and long-term financial viability of some projects.

Area-Specific Factors

- Rural incomes tend to be lower. No car may mean no easy access to necessities such as grocery store, health supports, etc. People are often unwilling to travel to Charlottetown and would prefer supports closer to their home communities.
- Not many large, high capacity not for profit or community organizations in place in rural communities that can provide coordinated or formal supports.
- Lack of social housing in Kings County.
- Key informants indicated there are hidden unhoused. The small communities tend to take care of others.

Specific Populations in Need

- There are limited housing options for young adults, and there has been an increase in numbers in this age group who are unhoused.
- There has been an increase in single men seeking housing.
- Those who are leaving incarceration are in need of support to assist them from falling into a cycle of incarceration. Finding appropriate, safe housing is a key step in moving forward from incarceration.
- For women fleeing domestic violence, there is no shelter in Kings County. This often means uprooting children from school and their social support networks.
- There are increasing cases of those identifying as LGBTQ+ needing housing.
- There is an increase in those age 70 plus who are unhoused.
- There is an increase in transient clients from other provinces.
- The complexity of the cases are increasing: mental health, addictions, and trauma.
- Addiction and the severity of addiction are increasing.

- There will be a need for more housing for those with physical and intellectual disabilities as caregivers age and decreases in family size limit options for these individuals to continue to be cared for by family members.

Need for Wrap Around Supports

- Information gathered from the community engagement workshop and the key informant sessions clearly identified the need for wrap around supports to be part of Safety Net housing, emergency shelter and short-term supportive housing, including:
 - Counselling
 - Addiction treatment
 - Literacy and numeracy skills
 - Life skills
 - Addressing job security and job coaching
 - Parenting classes
 - Addressing food security
 - Income supports
 - Warming centre
 - Medical services

Service Gaps

- The most frequently noted gap was the availability of shelter beds in Kings County. As there is no emergency shelter, individuals in need of emergency shelter and associated wrap-around services are largely required to access services in Charlottetown. A small emergency shelter – 5 or 6 beds – could be filled.
- There is a need for more social workers and case managers.
- Increased access to mental health professionals; timely access to mental health services is important to supporting people to remain housed.
- Transportation to get to support those services not offered locally should be supported.
- Low barrier housing (smoking, pets, substance use) is needed.
- There needs to be increased housing supply for single people.

- Increased support to maintain housing, not just rent but for electricity, to pay the damage deposit, etc.
- Increased coordination between the multiple caseworkers with multiple agencies.
- More training in harm reduction and trauma informed care is needed.
- There is a unique opportunity to develop programs that address “upstream issues.” Addressing mental health, employment, strengthening community connections so that people feel a sense of belonging.

VI. ANALYSIS

Current Housing Need in Kings County

Developing effective programs and services requires a robust understanding of the specific population and demographics of those currently in need. Anecdotal reports for the region include mentions of individuals living rough in the woods or on beaches, or even in some cases, in dumpsters in the more urban parts of the county. Given the overall more rural nature of the county, local needs are often met more informally through community and family networks, outside of formal systems that count or track events or needs. Verifying the exact number and frequency of these situations has proven to be a challenge, although recent changes to data tracking, such as county of origin, may improve the level and quality of information in future. Almost all key informants and those who participated in the community engagement session indicated they had seen an increase in needs in the past six months due to the rising cost of living and a very limited housing supply.

There seemed to be some consensus by those who participated in the community workshop and among key informants that there was an increase in young men needing housing. This is supported by the limited Park Street shelter data. Several also expressed concerns about the rising needs among seniors and the needs among families, citing rising costs. Those fleeing violence also are in need of housing. In the past several years, finding suitable transitional housing has been challenging, leading to longer stays at Anderson House.

Those working directly with clients who were unhoused or at risk of being unhoused were unanimous in their observations that the complexity of the needs of their clients has risen in recent years. Clients are more likely to have challenges with mental health or addictions, and to have experienced trauma. The complexity of these cases mean that sometimes, an individual may need long term supportive housing with some wrap around supports to ensure they remain successfully housed.

Emergency and transitional housing are only one part of the housing ecosystem and overall supply constraints leave people vulnerable to lack of housing due to unforeseen events in life.

Lack of local options may be leading people to avoid accessing services or leaving unsafe or unsuitable situations in order to avoid being sent to Charlottetown.

Low incomes are a significant factor for many individuals facing housing precariousness, especially in an environment of rapidly increasing costs of living and overall constrained housing environment. Other individuals are constrained by the fact of having incomes levels too high to qualify for supports but unable to afford the costs of living.

INTERCONNECTED AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL FACTORS

The housing needs of residents in the Kings County region, particularly those in need of emergency or transition housing or precariously housed, are not simply a reflection of housing supply or income factors. Rather, meeting those housing support needs involves consideration of complex issues that involved multiple provincial departments and parallel budget responsibilities as well as coordination and collaboration. These interdependencies range from hospitals, justice and protective services, social services, mental health and addictions, and others. Without coordination, continuity of care and support is challenged, and cycles of homelessness and risk are repeated as individuals move from area of responsibility to area of responsibility.

Available Services

For a list of community services and government serving Kings County, see **Appendix C**.¹⁵ This list includes provincial departments and municipalities within the region. It does not, however, include several community fridges that have been established recently, such as the one in the Rural Municipality of St. Peters Bay.

As noted above, there are no emergency shelters in Kings County, so those in need must travel to Charlottetown to access emergency shelter. Call volume has been up from Kings County on the Shelter Support Line for the first few months of 2023.

There are several community fridges and food banks in the region. Discussions with these service providers indicate that the uptake has been higher for these services over the past six months than in previous years. Service providers indicate they are seeing new faces, families and individuals. These include people on a fixed income or people who are employed, but are having financial difficulty given

¹⁵ List provided by 211.

the cost of groceries, gas, and utilities. Most food banks and community fridges are open only once or twice a week.

There are also several organizations which provide support for paying utility bills or assist with rent in an emergency. Indications from these community service providers is that demand for these types of supports has increased significantly.

The John Howard Society of PEI provides some programming for those being released from incarceration to assist them with housing.

Some community organizations such as Family Violence Prevention Services are providing programming and/or resource centres for clients. These supports and other wrap around supports are critical for breaking the cycle of chronic homelessness.

Capacity to Provide Extra Services

Currently, emergency shelter providers in Queens County are serving the needs of those in Kings and Prince counties. However, these shelters are reaching, or running at, capacity, and several are running with a wait list several nights a month. This leaves little capacity to accommodate new clients. With a lack of short and long-term supportive housing and low vacancy rates for rental accommodations, it is challenging to assist clients in finding housing to free up shelter beds. With current population forecasts and continued aggressive population growth, this is not likely to ease in the near future.

For the few organizations in Kings County who provide case management support for their clients, their caseloads are already full and the cases they are handling are more complex than in the past. This leaves little capacity to accommodate new clients.

Local community service providers are either extensions of provincial organizations offering some programming in the region, or very small organizations that would not likely have the volunteer capacity to provide leadership for any broad scale initiatives related to emergency shelter or short or long-term housing. A call for proposals could assist in identifying a community partner for future programming; however, any such partner would need an operating grant to provide programming and services, or to provide leadership to expand into other forms of service delivery.

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES

Several key informants raised the issue of how might it be possible to engage the community broadly in supporting those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, such as identifying a café willing to offer food donations at end of day, supporting collaborations to expand community fridges, identifying a barber shop willing to provide a set number of free haircuts a month, or identifying a carpenter willing to offer

several hours of work to make repairs to keep someone housed. Even, perhaps, encouraging the development of a listing of those willing to offer odd jobs to help people who need additional income.

The Compassionate Communities movement is a population health theory of practice where citizens work with local health and social care supports to holistically address the needs of persons experiencing vulnerabilities.¹⁶ In Canada, the concept of compassionate communities is most often applied in palliative care.¹⁷ A Compassionate Community can be a geographic area, a social group, or a group of people united by a common purpose. Compassionate Communities are about improving the quality of life for vulnerable and their families by encouraging people to advocate and provide assistance and practical support within their community. Within the palliative care sphere, Pallium has developed resources and toolkits to assist Compassionate Communities get started, including developing a Compassionate Community Startup Toolkit to help community champions mobilize their efforts.

There are examples of the Compassionate Communities approach being adopted to support the unhoused which could provide a useful model for Kings County.¹⁶ It would require identifying local champions and leaders and providing some initial leadership and resources to encourage the development of this approach. The local context of the mostly rural, close-knit communities would need to be considered in any adaptation of this model.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The following recommendation outline priority areas for action based on the background research, analysis, and findings from community engagement activities.

Housing with Supports

1. Short term – Meet current needs while working to further confirm local level of need:

- Provide community outreach services on a pop-up basis in Souris and Montague to provide food and housing assistance, support for individuals seeking employment, financial assistance, and counselling.
- Partnering with local non-profit organization(s), provide outreach workers. Through the outreach workers, continue efforts to confirm the level of need locally, collecting information/data on operational resource needs, client profile to help inform solutions, and

¹⁶ Pfaff, K., Krohn, H., Crawley, J. et al. The little things are big: evaluation of a compassionate community approach for promoting the health of vulnerable persons. BMC Public Health 21, 2253 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-12256-9>

¹⁷ Pallium. [Compassionate Communities - Pallium Canada](#) Accessed May 5, 2023

continue to work with municipalities and community resources to identify readiness to address needs.

- A call for expressions of interest/request for proposal process would help identify a local or provincial partner interested in filling this need and confirming the level of need would assist in planning for longer-term facilities and services that are appropriately sized.

2. Add on to existing services, partnering with local food banks, and provincial government resources to provide wrap around supports to individuals experiencing homelessness.

3. With data collected from outreach workers, create units for short-term supportive housing to assist individuals and families to transition away from homelessness, providing wrap-around support services. Wrap around supports should include:

- Counselling
- Addiction treatment
- Literacy and numeracy skills
- Life skills
- Addressing job security and job coaching
- Parenting classes
- Addressing food security
- Income supports
- Warming centre
- Medical services

4. With data collected from outreach workers, create additional long-term supportive housing options for individuals, seniors, families, and those with disabilities.

COORDINATION AND TRAINING

5. Assess programs and communication of programs to minimize complexities in systems that necessitate navigators.

6. Support community organizations in providing training opportunities for front line staff and case managers to ensure they are well trained in trauma informed care.

7. Adopt a client centred approach where case workers are encouraged to tailor solutions to the individual's needs, meeting people where they are in their journey rather than trying to force clients into existing programs.

8. Continue to promote 211 as a resource.

9. Facilitate more outreach/relationship building to build a stronger local network between various community organizations. Similar to a Compassionate Communities approach, foster a community approach to supporting those who are unhoused or at risk of being unhoused.

DATA COLLECTION

10. Continue implementation of coordinated access, HIFIS and the By Names List, encouraging partners to use the By Names List even if there is little movement off the list. Encourage use of the common form and train all case managers in information tracking to ensure data provides needed information. Data entry requirements and processes should be examined to ensure appropriate/relevant data is collected while minimizing burden to the service providers.

11. Improve tracking of individuals once passed from the Navigator and connected to next level of services to avoid lack of data on individuals and their needs until they are brought back into system for housing needs.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

12. Engage with Emergency Measures Office and municipalities to support the development of plans to support those who are unhoused or precariously housed in times of emergency, recognizing there is a variety of needs in the community. Particularly ensure planning to acknowledge populations who may be unable to support themselves during the first 72-hour period.

TRANSPORTATION

13. Continue to expand rural transportation routes and times of operation to allow Kings County residents to access services in Charlottetown, but remain connected to work, school and their community network and supports.

14. Consider public transportation proximity to emergency and supportive housing to facilitate ability to get to work, access to school, and access to medical and other support services.

APPENDIX A: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

Table A1: Family Characteristics, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

Total Census Families in Private Households	5190	% of Census Families
2 persons	3025	58.3%
3 persons	985	19.0%
4 persons	730	14.1%
5 or more persons	445	8.6%
<i>Average size of census families</i>	2.8	
<i>Average number of children in census families with children</i>	1.8	
Total Census Families in Private Households	5190	% of total census families
Couple-family households	4330 (83.4% of Census families in private households)	
<i>With children</i>	1850	42.7% of all families
<i>Without children</i>	2480	57.3% of all families
One-parent-family households	860 (16.6 % of Census families in private households)	76.2% are women+ families, 23.8% are men+ families
Total persons in private households	17,500	
Persons in Census Families	14,370 (82.1% of all persons in private households)	
	<i>Married spouse or common-law partner</i>	8660 (91%)
	<i>Parent in one-parent family</i>	860 (9%)
	<i>Children in two-parent family</i>	3535 (73.0%)
	<i>Children in one-parent family</i>	1305 (27.0%)
Persons not in Census families	3135 (17.9% of all persons in private households)	
	<i>Living alone</i>	2335 (74.4%)
	<i>Living with other relatives</i>	300 (9.6%)
	<i>Living with non-relatives only</i>	505 (16.1%)

HOUSEHOLD TYPES

Table A2: Household Types, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

Total Households	7675	% of Households
One-census-family households without additional persons	4800	62.5%
Couple-family households	4090 (42.4% of one family households without additional persons)	
<i>With children</i>	1735	22.6% of all households, 42.4% of all couple family households
<i>Without children</i>	2350	30.6% of all households, 57.5% of all couple family households
One-parent-family households	710 (14.8 % of one-family households without additional persons)	
Multigenerational households	130	1.7%
Multiple-census-family households	20	0.3%
One-census-family households with additional persons	150	2.0%
Two-or-more-person non-census-family households	240	3.1%
One-person households	2335	30.4%
Total - Private households by household size - 100% data	7680	
1 person	2335	30.4%
2 persons	3000	39.1%
3 persons	1010	13.2%
4 persons	795	10.4%
5 or more persons	535	7.0%
Number of persons in private households	17505	96% of all persons
Average household size (all household types)	2.3	

- 73% of children live in a 2-parent family.
- 53% of households are one-maintainer households, 45% are two-maintainer households.
- 62% of households have a primary household maintainer between age of 24-64 years, 36% of households have a primary household maintainer of 65 years or older.

DWELLINGS

- 82% dwellings are single detached (2021), not a large shift in ratios from 2016.
- 19% of households are tenant households – slight increase from 2016, but well below provincial percentages.
- 44.4% of dwellings have 3 bedrooms, 23.6% have 2 bedrooms.
- 28% of dwellings have 8+ rooms.
- 56% of dwellings built in 1980 or earlier, only 20% built between 2001 and 2021.
- 97% of private households are in suitable housing, but 9% of dwellings require major repairs.

EDUCATION STATUS

Table A3: Education Status, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

Education Status (2021 Census)	Kings County (%)	PEI (%)
Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree for the population aged 15 years and over in private households		
No certificate, diploma or degree	21	16
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	31	28
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	48	56
(Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level)	71	60
(Bachelor's degree or higher)	29	40
Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree for the population aged 25 to 64 years in private households		
No certificate, diploma or degree	13	9
High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate	31	26
Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree	56	65
(Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level)	71	58
(Bachelor's degree or higher)	29	42

LABOUR FORCE INDICATORS

Table A4: Labour Force Status and Work Activity, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

Labour Force Status & Work Activity (2021 Census)	Kings County (%)	PEI (%)
Total - Population aged 15 years and over by labour force status		
Participation rate	63.7	65.8
Employment rate	56.2	59
Unemployment rate	11.8	10.3
Not in the labour force	36.4	34.2
Total - Population aged 15 years and over by work activity during the reference year -		
Did not work	35.7	33.4
Worked	64.3	66.6
Worked full year full time	41.7	49.9
Worked part year and/or part time	58.3	50.1
Average weeks worked in reference year	36.3	39.6

INCOME INDICATORS

- Increase in median after-tax income for economic family from \$62,926 in 2015 to \$75,000 in 2020.
- Median after-tax income for economic family in 2020 was \$79,500 for all of PEI, versus \$75,000 in Kings County.

Table A5: Income Indicators, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

Economic Family Structure	Kings County		PEI	
	Number	Median after-tax income 2020 (\$)	Number	Median after-tax income 2020 (\$)
All economic families*	5,175	75,000	43,455	79,500
Couple only economic families	45.9%	67,500	44.2%	71,500
Couple with children economic families	36.1%	96,000	38.5%	102,000
One-parent economic families	15.5%	54,000	14.5%	56,400
One-person households	2,335	30,200	18,635	32,400

*Percentages may not equal 100% due to statistical rounding.

INCOME GROUP DISTRIBUTION

Table A6: Income Group Distribution, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

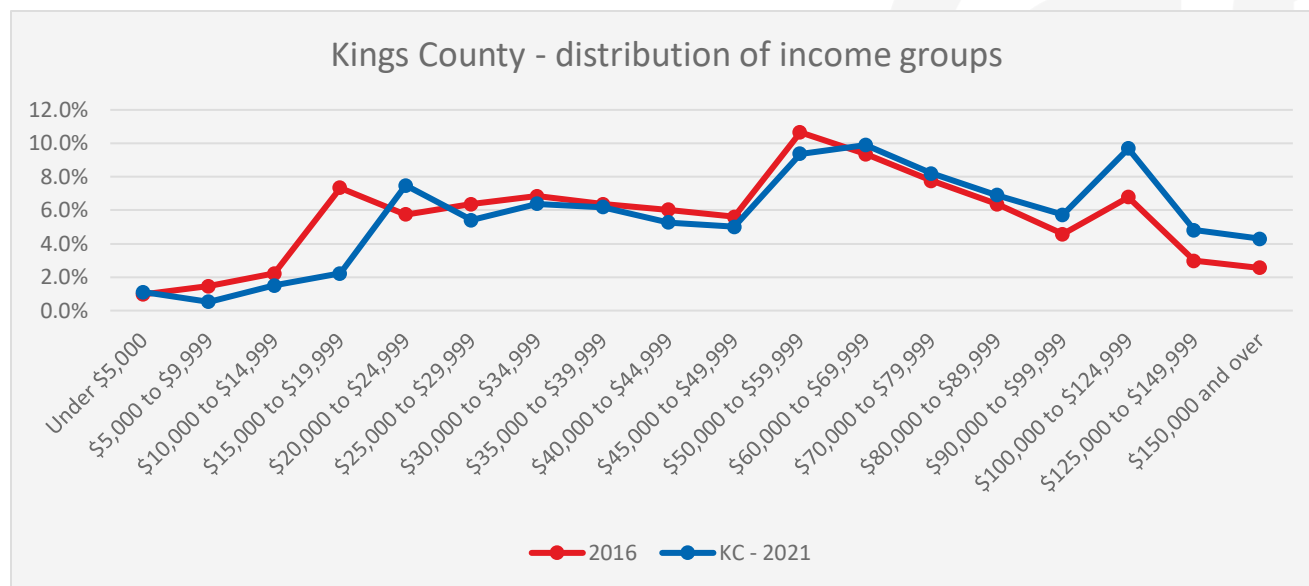


Table A7: Age Breakdowns, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

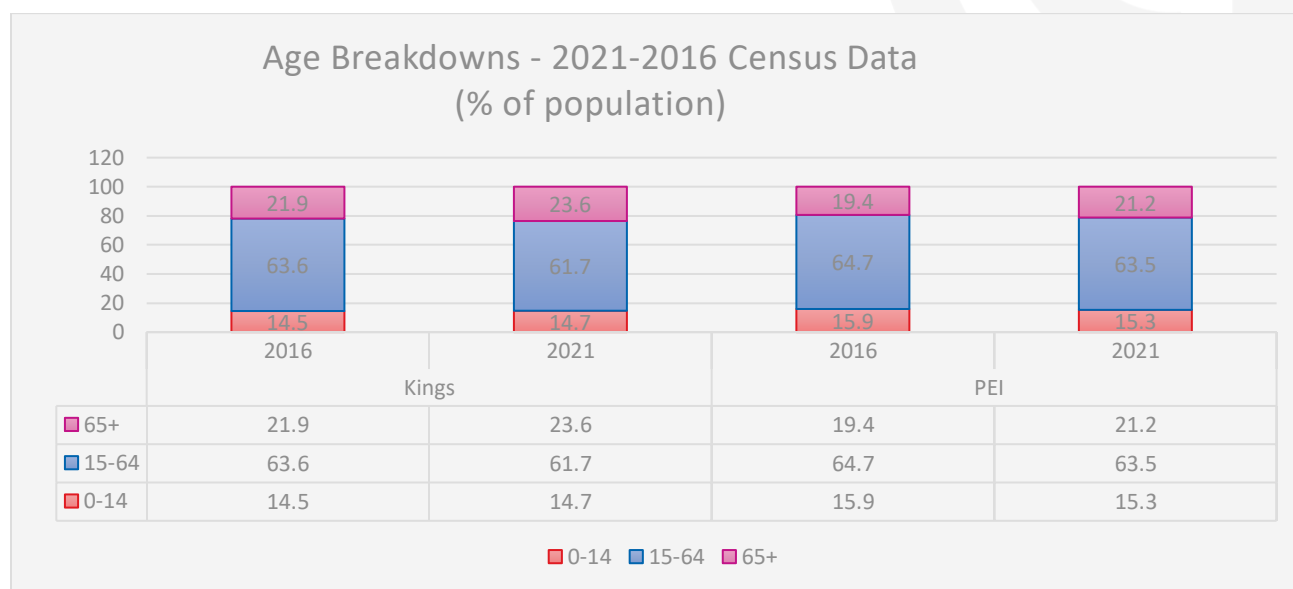


Table A8: Dwelling Units by Type, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

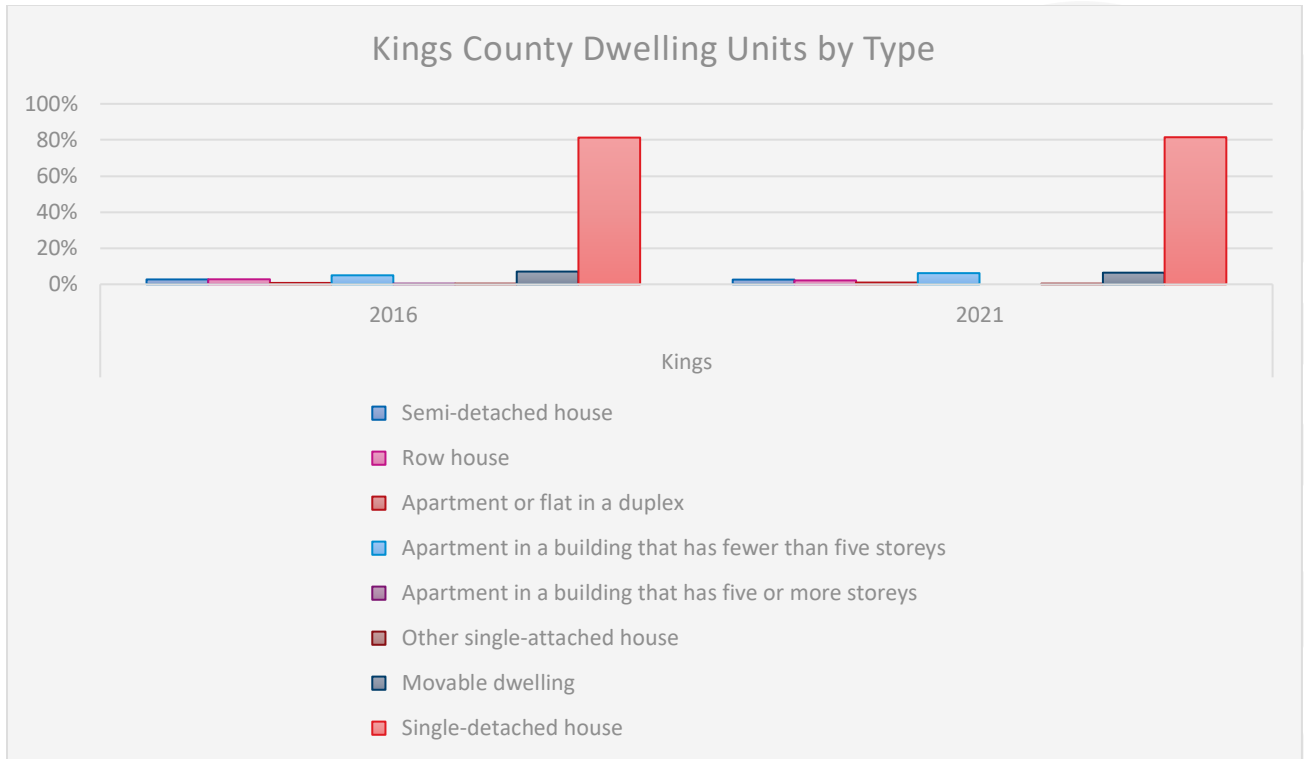


Table A9: Household Size, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

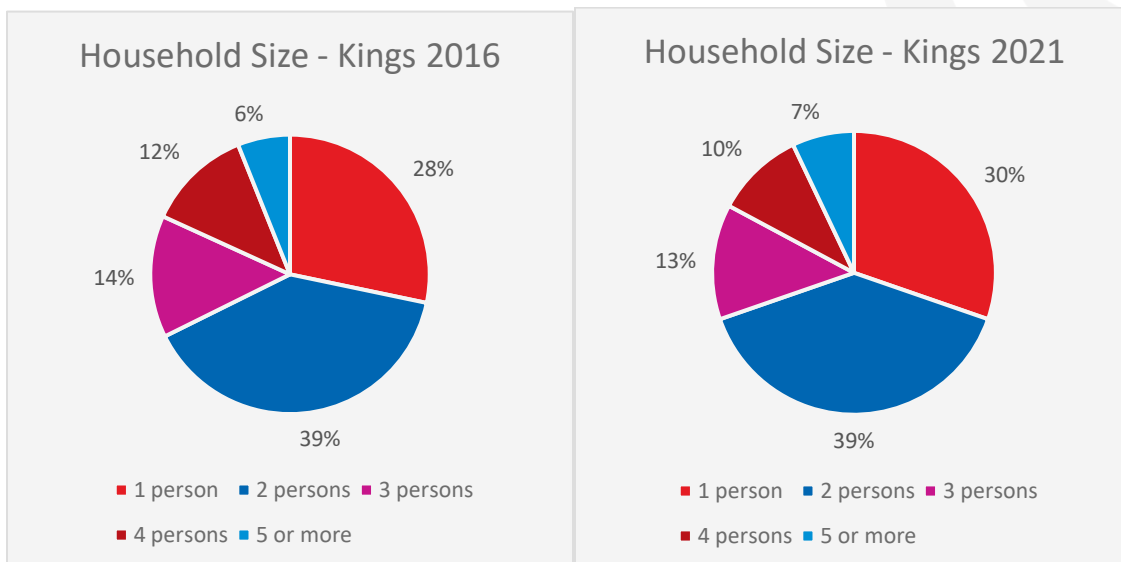


Table A10: Household Breakdown Kings County and All of PEI, 2021 Census, Statistics Canada

	Kings		PEI	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
1 person	28%	30%	27%	29%
2 persons	39%	39%	39%	38%
3 persons	14%	13%	15%	15%
4 persons	12%	10%	12%	12%
5 or more persons	6%	7%	7%	7%

OTHER DATA

Table A11: Detailed Shelter Support Line Data- Demographics of Individuals- Kings County Calls

	2022		2023	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Jan				
Immediate Shelter	1		3	
Other			1	2
Planning for Future Needs				1
Feb				
General Info	2		1	
Immediate Shelter			1	
Other				1
Mar				
General Info			4	2
Immediate Shelter			3	
Other			3	
Planning for Future Needs			2	1
Taxi Service			1	
Apr				
Immediate Shelter	1			
May				
General Info		2		
Immediate Shelter		1		
Planning for Future Needs		3		
Jun				
Immediate Shelter	2	1		
Jul				
Immediate Shelter		1		
Aug				
General Info	1	3		

Immediate Shelter		1		
Planning for Future Needs		1		
Sept				
Other	2	1		
Planning for Future Needs	2			
Oct				
General Info	1			
Immediate Shelter	1			
Planning for Future Needs		1		
Nov				
General Info	1			
Immediate Shelter	6			
Dec				
General Info	1			
Immediate Shelter	5	2		

APPENDIX B: PARTICIPANTS IN KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

The following individuals participated in the key informant interviews:

Name	Role, Organization
Joe Coade	Provincial Manager for Residential and Support Services,
Norma Dingwell	Manager, Southern Kings and Queens Food Bank
Darlene Eldershaw	Child Protection Supervisor for Montague and Souris
Tracey Handrahan	Housing Supervisor. Montague, Souris
Graham Harvey	Rural Wrap Around Services, John Howard Society PEI
Keith Hillier	Executive Director, John Howard Society PEI
Tavie Ingersoll	Operations Manager, Blooming House
Donna Keenan	Executive Director, Community Outreach Centre
Aundrea MacIntyre	Child protection worker King's County
Debbie MacKinnon	CAO, Rural Municipality of St. Peters Bay
Sean Martin	Harm Reduction Coordinator, Department of Health and Wellness
Amy McManus	211 PEI Service & Data Coordinator
Roxanne Carter Thompson	Executive Director, Adventure Group
Marion Trowbridge	President, Rotary Club. Montague and Eastern PEI
Bryn Turner	Coordinated Access Coordinator, John Howard Society PEI
Ann Van Donkersgoed	Councillor, Town of Three Rivers

APPENDIX C: KINGS COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS/PROGRAMS

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
Access PEI - Montague	Government of Prince Edward Island - Department of Transportation and Infrastructure	Montague	October to May: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm; June to September: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm	A one-stop location that offers information and services provided by the provincial government including, but not limited to: Paying property taxes Getting a driver's licence or voluntary identification card Motor vehicle registration Purchasing fishing licences Pick up/drop off Vital Statistics forms	Montague and surrounding area
Access PEI - Souris	Government of Prince Edward Island - Department of Transportation and Infrastructure	Souris	October to May: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm; June to September: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm	A one-stop location that offers information and services provided by the provincial government including, but not limited to: Paying property taxes Getting a driver's licence or voluntary identification card Motor vehicle registration Purchasing fishing licences Pick up/drop off Vital Statistics forms	Souris and surrounding areas (East Point to Morell)
Annandale-Little Pond-Howe Bay, Rural Municipality of	Annandale-Little Pond-Howe Bay, Rural Municipality of	Souris	No scheduled office hours	Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community.	Annandale * Little Pond * Howe Bay

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
Belfast, Rural Municipality of	Belfast, Rural Municipality of	Wood Islands	No scheduled office hours	Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community.	Belfast
Cardigan Consolidated School	CHANCES	Cardigan		Location of Smart Play before and after school program	Cardigan * Surrounding areas
Caregiver Support Group - Montague	Alzheimer Society of PEI	Montague			Kings County
CDS - Montague	Career Development Services	Montague	November to April: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm; May to October: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm; Closed holidays		Montague and surrounding area
CDS - Souris	Career Development Services	Souris	November to April: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm; May to October: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm; Closed holidays		Souris and surrounding area
Central Kings, Rural Municipality of	Central Kings, Rural Municipality of	Bridgetown	No scheduled office hours	Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community.	Central Kings * Albion Cross * Bridgetown * Dingwells Mills * Dundas * Mount

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
					Hope * Poplar Point * Upton
Child & Family Services	Government of Prince Edward Island Department of Social Development and Seniors	Charlottetown			
Colville Manor	Health PEI	Souris		Adult Day Programs Location	Souris and surrounding area
Community and Correctional Services	Government of Prince Edward Island Department of Justice & Public Safety			Probations	
Community Mental Health and Addiction Services - Montague	Health PEI	Lower Montague	Mental Health Services: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm; Addiction Services: Mon-Sat 8am-4pm		Kings County
Community Mental Health and Addiction Services - Souris	Health PEI	Souris			Kings County
Community Mental Health Services - Montague	Strongest Families Institute	Montague		Contact point for Strongest Families in Kings County	Kings County
Community Outreach Centre	Adventure Group	Charlottetown			

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
COVID-19 Testing Clinic - Montague	COVID-19	Montague	Closed holidays * Hours subject to change. Always check website for up-to-date hours.		Prince Edward Island
Eastern Community Navigator	CBDC West Prince Ventures	Montague		Contact point for the Eastern Community Navigator	Eastern PEI: from Pownal to East Point
Eastern Kings Health Centre	Health PEI	Souris	Services are by appointment * Call for information * Office closed between 12pm-1pm		Souris and surrounding area
Eastern Kings Hospice	Eastern Kings Hospice	Souris	Office hours * Hospice support also can be arranged by phone outside these hours	Provides bedside support for individuals and their families who are going through an end-of-life experience.	Eastern Kings: Area east of St. Peters Bay
Eastern Kings, Rural Municipality of	Eastern Kings, Rural Municipality of	Kingsboro		Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community. Services include: Council, development permits, and the Fly Program.	Eastern Kings: Basin Head * Campbell's Cove * East Point * Kingsboro * Lakeville * Munns Road * Priest Pond * Red Point

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
Eastern PEI Family Violence Prevention - Montague	PEI Family Violence Prevention Services	Montague		Location of services for Kings County	Kings County
Families East Resource Centre	Families East Resource Centre	Souris West	July-August: Thursdays 9am-2pm	Provides programs and resources for families with children from conception to six years.	Eastern Kings County: Between North Lake/East Point to Morell to Dundas
Harbourview Training Centre	Harbourview Training Centre	Souris		Offers vocational training, onsite employment, job training, and other support services to clients with intellectual disabilities.	Kings County
Home Care - Montague	Health PEI	Montague	Mon-Fri 8am-4pm		
Hospice of Southern Kings County	Hospice of Southern Kings County	Montague	24/7 voicemail * Messages responded to daily	Provides respite care for individuals and families experiencing an end-of-life journey regardless of the illness.	Southern Kings: Dundas and south * Vernon River and east
Housing Services	Government of Prince Edward Island, Department of Housing, Land and Communities			Housing Programs, Housing Navigator, Seniors Tenant Outreach Worker, Home Renovations	
Inclusions East	Inclusions East	Montague		Provides residential and employment services, skills development, vocational training, and community support to people	Southern Kings County * May be able to provide services to individuals who live

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
				with intellectual and/or dual disabilities.	elsewhere in Kings County
John Howard Society		Charlottetown	8:30am- 4:00pm M-F	Provides supports and programming for those who are at risk or involved with the criminal justice system. Programs include employment assistance, wrap around housing, funding to prevent and reduce homelessness, and prevention and diversion.	Province
Kings County Memorial Hospital	Health PEI	Montague			
Kings County Office - Montague	Canadian Mental Health Association Prince Edward Island Division	Montague			Kings County
Le Comité Acadien et Francophone de l'Est	Le Comité Acadien et Francophone de l'Est	Rollo Bay		Represents the interests of the Acadien and Francophone individuals of the Eastern Kings region. Provides opportunities to collaborate with municipalities, businesses and local organizations.	Eastern Kings County
Meals on Wheels - Montague	Meals on Wheels PEI	Montague		Delivers nutritious pre-made meals to people in need.	
Meals on Wheels - Souris	Meals on Wheels PEI	Souris		Delivers nutritious pre-made meals to people in need.	

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
Morell, Rural Community of	Morell, Rural Community of	Morell		Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community.	Morell
Murray Harbour, Rural Municipality of	Murray Harbour, Rural Municipality of	Murray Harbour		Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community. Services include council and sewer services.	Murray Harbour
Murray River, Rural Community of	Murray River, Rural Community of	Murray River	No scheduled office hours	Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community.	Murray River
PEI Watershed Alliance	PEI Watershed Alliance	Souris	No scheduled office hours	Association of watershed management groups that supports to improve and protect the environmental quality of PEI watersheds.	Prince Edward Island
Public Health Nursing - Montague	Health PEI	Montague			
Public Health Nursing - Souris	Health PEI	Souris			
ResourceAbilities	ResourceAbilities	Brudenell Mini-Mall		Support with federal programs, assistance navigating provincial government system	

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
Social Programs	Government of Prince Edward Island Department of Social Development and Seniors	Charlottetown		Social Assistance, AccessAbility Supports, Child Care Subsidy, Seniors Independence Initiative	
Souris Food Bank	Souris Food Bank	Souris	Phone hours	Provides food to those in need.	Souris and surrounding areas (East Point to Morell)
Souris Hospital	Health PEI	Souris			
Souris West, Rural Municipality of	Souris West, Rural Municipality of	Souris	No scheduled office hours	Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community.	Souris West
Souris, Town of	Souris, Town of	Souris		Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community. Services include: Council, Planning services, Business permits, Water and sewage utilities.	Souris
Southern Kings and Queens Food Bank	Southern Kings and Queens Food Bank	Montague	Donations drop-off: Mon 9am-11:30am; Food pick-up and donations drop-off: Thurs 9am-11:30am	Drive-thru food bank that provides food to those in need.	Kings County * Queens County

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
St. Peters Bay, Rural Municipality of	St. Peters Bay, Rural Municipality of	St. Peters Bay		Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community.	St. Peters Bay
TCAP Family Fitness Aquatics and Fitness Centre	Canadian Red Cross - PEI Branch	Montague		Location of swimming lessons	Kings County
Three Rivers, Town of	Three Rivers	Montague		Municipal government. Council is responsible for creating and sustaining a safe, healthy, orderly and viable community. Services include: Council * Development Permits * Water and sewer utilities. Three Rivers is an amalgamation of Montague, Lower Montague, Georgetown, Valleyfield, Cardigan, Brudenell and Lorne Valley (2018).	Montague * Lower Montague * Georgetown * Valleyfield * Cardigan * Brudenell * Lorne Valley
Vital Statistics - Main Office	Government of Prince Edward Island - Department of Justice and Public Safety	Lower Montague			Prince Edward Island

Name	Organization (Agency) Name	Location	Hours Of Operation	Description	Coverage Area
Voices for Children Coalition	Voices for Children Coalition	Lower Montague	September to June: Mon-Fri 8:30am-3pm; June to September: Tues-Thurs 8:30am-3pm	Provides programs and resources for families residing in Southeastern Kings County. May be able to provide transportation to the Resource Centre. Email directly through website	Cardigan * Georgetown * Montague * Murray Harbour * Murray River * Vernon Bridge * Wood Islands * Surrounding areas

ADDRESSING THE RECOMMENDATIONS



RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSE	STATUS
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HOUSING WITH SUPPORTS

<p>1. Short term – Meet current needs while working to further confirm local level of need:</p> <p>Provide community outreach services on a pop-up basis in Souris and Montague to provide food and housing assistance, support for individuals seeking employment, financial assistance, and counselling.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Hiring of second Housing Navigator › Will be present periodically at local food banks to promote awareness and services › Attend local events when appropriate to increase community visibility 	<p>January 2024</p>
<p>Partnering with local non-profit organization(s), provide outreach workers. Through the outreach workers, continue efforts to confirm the level of need locally, collecting information/data on operational resource needs, client profile to help inform solutions, and continue to work with municipalities and community resources to identify readiness to address needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Connect with current community, government and municipal resources to coordinate services and identify opportunities for outreach support/service › Lead the development of a service level workshop to build on community engagement session 	<p>January/ February 2024</p> <p>Spring 2024</p>
<p>A call for expressions of interest/request for proposal process would help identify a local or provincial partner interested in filling this need and confirming the level of need would assist in planning for longer-term facilities and services that are appropriately sized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Will work with current community, government and municipal resources to identify and define long-term needs 	<p><i>TBC (based on outcomes of other recommendations and defined need)</i></p>
<p>2. Add on to existing services, partnering with local food banks, and provincial government resources to provide wrap around supports to individuals experiencing homelessness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Will be present periodically at local food banks to promote awareness and services 	<p>January 2024</p>



<p>3. With data collected from outreach workers, create units for short-term supportive housing to assist individuals and families to transition away from homelessness, providing wrap-around support services. Wrap around supports should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Counselling - Addiction treatment - Literacy and numeracy skills - Life skills - Addressing job security and job coaching - Parenting classes - Addressing food security - Income supports - Warming centre - Medical services 	<p>› Will work with current community, government and municipal resources to identify and define long-term needs</p>	<p><i>TBC (based on outcomes of other recommendations and defined need)</i></p>
<p>4. With data collected from outreach workers, create additional long-term supportive housing options for individuals, seniors, families, and those with disabilities.</p>	<p>› Will work with current community, government and municipal resources to identify and define long-term needs</p>	<p><i>TBC (based on outcomes of other recommendations and defined need)</i></p>

COORDINATION & TRAINING

<p>5. Assess programs and communication of programs to minimize complexities in systems that necessitate navigators.</p>	<p>› Ongoing – eg. utilize Bridge Table for provincial sharing of resources</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>6. Support community organizations in providing training opportunities for front line staff and case managers to ensure they are well trained in trauma informed care.</p>	<p>› Many organizations access training centrally in Ch'town – explore opportunity to expand training offerings to other community groups locally including service organizations</p>	<p>Spring 2024</p>

<p>7. Adopt a client centred approach where case workers are encouraged to tailor solutions to the individual's needs, meeting people where they are in their journey rather than trying to force clients into existing programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Continue to strengthen our collaborative case management 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>8. Continue to promote 211 as a resource.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Will continue to promote 211 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>9. Facilitate more outreach/relationship building to build a stronger local network between various community organizations. Similar to a Compassionate Communities approach, foster a community approach to supporting those who are unhoused or at risk of being unhoused.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Lead the development of a service level workshop to build on community engagement session 	<p>February 2024 - Spring 2024</p>

DATA COLLECTION

<p>10. Continue implementation of coordinated access, HIFIS and the By Names List, encouraging partners to use the By Names List even if there is little movement off the list. Encourage use of the common form and train all case managers in information tracking to ensure data provides needed information. Data entry requirements and processes should be examined to ensure appropriate/relevant data is collected while minimizing burden to the service providers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › JHS - Community Entity - lead up engagement and training for Point-in-Time Count 2024 › Ensure service providers continue to use HIFIS and are a part of coordinated access - explore case conferencing table/ opportunities if demonstrated demand 	<p>Spring 2024 - Fall 2024</p>
<p>11. Improve tracking of individuals once passed from the Navigator and connected to next level of services to avoid lack of data on individuals and their needs until they are brought back into system for housing needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Improving data collection and outcome reporting for Housing Navigators 	<p>February/March 2024</p>

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

<p>12. Engage with Emergency Measures Office and municipalities to support the development of plans to support those who are unhoused or precariously housed in times of emergency, recognizing there is a variety of needs in the community. Particularly ensure planning to acknowledge populations who may be unable to support themselves during the first 72-hour period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Initial conversations were had with local service group – interest, but requires more resource/support – engage municipalities to ensure community response› Part of spring workshop agenda	<p>Ongoing</p>
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TRANSPORTATION

<p>13. Continue to expand rural transportation routes and times of operation to allow Kings County residents to access services in Charlottetown, but remain connected to work, school and their community network and supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Ensure access to transportation is a key consideration in all service/housing offerings	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>14. Consider public transportation proximity to emergency and supportive housing to facilitate ability to get to work, access to school, and access to medical and other support services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Ensure access to transportation is a key consideration in all service/housing offerings	<p>Ongoing</p>