

Couchiching

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

2025-2029





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A Shared Commitment

On behalf of the Councils of the City of Orillia and the Townships of Oro-Medonte, Ramara, and Severn, we are proud to present the 2025-2029 Couchiching Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

We are grateful to the residents, community partners, and collaborative tables who contributed their time, experience, and insights. Your input helped ensure this Plan reflects the areas where we can make the greatest impact by working together.

We also thank the Ontario Provincial Police and the County of Simcoe for their continued partnership and support, as well as the municipal staff and Councils who have shown leadership and commitment throughout this process.

Since the launch of our first Plan (2021-2025), our communities have faced new and evolving challenges, but we have demonstrated our commitment to working together to identify local needs and taking action where it matters most.

This updated Plan focuses on three key areas: housing stability, mental health and addictions, and access to services and supports. While these issues are complex, we believe progress is possible when we move forward together.

This Plan is more than a document; it is a commitment to keep listening, collaborating, and building a safer, healthier, and more connected community for all.

The Couchiching Geographical Municipal Coordinating Committee.



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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and support the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous communities, along with the organizations that work every day to enhance safety and well-being.

In recognition of the longstanding history of the land on which we live and where this Plan will be carried out, we offer this land acknowledgment

We acknowledge that the land on which our community safety and well-being planning will take place is the traditional land of the Anishinaabe People.

The Anishinaabe include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. It should be noted that the Wendat and the Haudenosaunee Nations have also walked on this territory over time.

In times of great change, we recognize more than ever the importance of honouring Indigenous history and culture and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, respect and good health with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people and our community as a whole.

As part of our commitment to reconciliation, this Plan respects the right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination and Indigenous-led planning.

We acknowledge the ongoing impacts of colonialism and the need to repair fractured relationships.

We are committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities and to learning from the knowledge and skills they bring, as we work together to enhance safety and well-being for all.





Introduction

Safety and well-being are built over time through strong relationships, access to services, and a shared commitment to community.

In Ontario, every municipality is required to develop, adopt, and implement a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan under the [Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 \(Part XVI\)](#). These plans follow a provincial [CSWB framework](#) that focuses on four key areas: social development, prevention, risk intervention, and emergency response. The goal is to work together, across sectors, to address issues early and create stronger outcomes for everyone.

There are six Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plans across Simcoe County, each tailored to local needs, yet they share common strategies and partners, reflecting the interconnected nature of our communities and the value of coordinated action.

This refreshed CSWB Plan for Couchiching reflects what we have learned since the release of our first Plan (2021-2025), through local data, community input, and close collaboration with our partners. Three key priorities remain the same, but this refreshed Plan takes a more focused and action-oriented approach to strategies that can drive real change.

We are taking a more connected approach, one that looks at how services and systems can work better together. By coordinating efforts across health, housing, policing, and social supports, we aim to make a meaningful difference in people's lives and strengthen our communities.

Plan At a Glance

The 2025-2029 Couchiching Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan outlines Orillia, Oro-Medonte, Ramara, and Severn's shared priorities to support a safer, healthier community. Built on [what we have learned since 2021](#), this Plan reflects the [insights](#) from data and the voices of local residents, service providers, and community partners. It highlights where we can have the most impact by working together on the issues that matter most, based on our [understanding of our community](#). The Plan is designed to be agile and responsive to emerging needs and opportunities, while maintaining clear, actionable strategies to guide progress.

Priorities:

**Housing and
Homelessness**

**Mental Health and
Addiction (MHA)**

**Access to Services
and Navigation**

Strategies: While there were various ideas on how to address different aspects of safety and well-being and [other important priorities](#), the Plan includes the following [four aligned strategies](#), informed by community insight, that will guide our next steps and collective efforts:



Safe and Supported: Strengthening Pathways Out of Homelessness

Improves safety and stability through better housing access, outreach, and referral supports.



Transitional-Aged Youth Services Network

Supports the coordination of youth mental health and addiction services across agencies as an initial area of focus.



Gateways to Services and Supports

Facilitates the means for residents to access timely mental health support by aligning and connecting navigation tools, referral systems, and booking options across multiple access points.



County-Wide Phased Data Approach

Builds a practical, collaborative foundation for sharing data to guide decisions and measure the progress of CSWB activities.

This Plan Was Informed By

- An initial review of the original CSWB Plan
- Targeted engagement process including presentations to collaborative tables with short online polls to gather preliminary insights from key stakeholders
- An online Resident CSWB Survey (April–May 2025) – 101 responses
- A Local Couchiching Provider Session (April 2025) - 14 providers participated
- A County-Wide Provider Session (March 2025) - 27 providers participated
- An online Provider Survey (March–April 2025) - 35 responses
- Data Analysis (available local data)

Actioning and Overseeing the Plan

Each strategy in this Plan has a lead agency and partners responsible for [moving the work forward and oversight](#). These groups will coordinate activities, track progress, and report regularly to the Local Geographical Municipal Coordinating Committee (GMCC), which is a committee that serves as a collaborative forum for guiding, monitoring, and supporting the implementation of the Plan. Additionally, updates will be shared with the Advisory Body.

This Plan is designed to be useful and adaptable. As our communities grow and we learn what makes the biggest difference, we will keep adjusting, always aiming to make Couchiching safer, more supportive, and more connected for everyone.

A list of [helpful terms and acronyms](#) may be useful when reading this Plan.



Couchiching CSWB Plan Update Approach

Momentum and Lessons Learned from the 2021-2024 CSWB Plan

Since launching our first CSWB Plan in 2021, we have made progress in several important areas.

Housing

Orillia Campus Affordable Housing (2024) is a 130-unit affordable housing development located on West Street with integrated community services onsite.

Community Safety Teams (2024) build meaningful connections with people who are experiencing homelessness, intensify referrals to services, and work with the broader community to keep the community safe through safety walks, clean up, and more.

Ethan's Place Rapid Re-Housing Program located in Orillia (2024) is a module facility housing youth aged 16-24 experiencing homelessness, providing temporary housing with the goal of transitioning to permanent housing over a period of 18 months.

Coordinated Access: Homelessness System (2022) was successfully implemented across Simcoe County, aligning with the federal mandate under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy¹ to streamline and enhance access to housing and support services across the region.

10-Point Homelessness Prevention Strategy² (2022) was introduced by the County of Simcoe includes considerable added investment, enhancements, and support for the unhoused population in our communities.

The Lighthouse 'Building Hope Project' (2021) consists of 20 self-contained supportive housing units, 40 shelter beds and a 5-bed youth wing. The program offers wrap-around supports.

¹ [Overview: Reaching Home](#)

² [10-Point Homelessness Prevention Strategy](#)

Mental Health and Addiction

Addiction and Overdose Crisis Working Group (2023) was formed with the primary focus of developing a Community Connection Centre—a physical hub designed to provide system navigation, harm reduction, and social support services in a stigma-free environment.

Couchiching Ontario Health Team: Mental Health and Addiction and Social Determinants of Health Work Group (ongoing) brings together local partners to identify, align, and advance collaborative strategies that address the root causes of mental health and addiction challenges, with a focus on improving access, equity, and outcomes across the community

Orillia Opioid Working Group (2024) brings together the municipality and community partners to share information, build relationships, and coordinate evidence-based strategies across prevention, harm reduction, and treatment to address the impacts of opioid use in Couchiching. They are working on establishing a service navigation hub in downtown Orillia.

Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) – (ongoing) –contributes to early intervention and crisis diversion by embedding a mental health professional with a sworn OPP officer, reducing emergency department visits and minimizing strain on frontline police resources.

Access

Community Connection's 24/7 Housing Helpline and Coordinated Access (2022) was launched as an expansion to its contact centre operations to 24/7, providing a dedicated housing helpline accessible via calling 211. Callers can receive immediate assistance and be connected to appropriate housing resources through the Simcoe County Coordinated Access³ system.

³ [Overview: Coordinated Access](#)



Building on Experience

As we refresh the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, we recognize the value of reflecting on what we have learned from the development and implementation of the 2021-2025 CSWB Plan. Through collaboration, experience, and community engagement, we have gained important insights alongside a clearer understanding of the implementation challenges and limitations that can impact progress.

As we move forward with our refreshed Plan, we recognize:

- CSWB initiatives are most successful when a lead agency is identified, and roles are clearly defined
- Data sharing remains an ongoing challenge that needs to be addressed
- Lived and direct service provider experience brings valuable insight
- Inter-sectoral collaboration needs dedicated support and infrastructure
- Starting with clear, doable steps creates progress
- CSWB makes us rethink how we define success when it may not always be visible in the short term (e.g., prevented crises)
- Flexibility is essential for real-time learning and adjusting to emerging needs and opportunities
- The need for ongoing communication and consultation can not be overstated

Understanding Our Community

The City of Orillia and the Townships of Oro-Medonte, Ramara, and Severn form the Couchiching sub-region of Simcoe County, encompassing both urban and rural communities. The geography includes the city core of Orillia, rural farmlands, and shoreline areas along Lakes Simcoe, Lake Couchiching, and the Trent Severn Waterway. This diversity creates both opportunity and complexity in addressing community safety and well-being.

Geographic factors significantly influence access to services. Orillia is a regional service hub, offering access to health care, mental health and addiction supports, social housing, and outreach programs. In contrast, rural residents in Oro-Medonte, Ramara, and Severn may face longer travel distances, fewer transportation options, and limited housing stock, all of which can affect timely access to care and support services.

Demographic trends also shape service needs. Orillia has a higher proportion of low-income households (12.6% of residents live in low-income situations, compared to 6% in Oro-Medonte⁴) and a visible population of those experiencing homelessness, particularly in the downtown core. The Couchiching area has higher median ages and a growing senior population⁵, which may require more support related to aging, transportation, and health access.

The region includes a meaningful Indigenous presence, including proximity to the Chippewas of Rama First Nation. According to the 2021 Census, Indigenous residents represent approximately 4% of Couchiching's population⁵. Ensuring culturally appropriate, inclusive, and trauma-informed services is a shared priority across the region.

Despite the geographic spread and demographic variation, the region benefits from strong intermunicipal and cross-sector partnerships, which have laid the groundwork for collaborative, place-based solutions that meet the unique needs of each community.

⁴ Health Stats Dashboard, SMDHU, 2021 Census

⁵ County of Simcoe Data Portal, 2021 Census



Insights

This Plan is shaped by what we heard from the community and what the data tells us. Together, these insights help us understand local needs and focus our efforts where they are needed most.

Insights From Resident Survey Respondents

Access to Information

Most residents rely on local government websites and search engines to find information about available services. However, nearly half (47%) said they would not know where to go for help with housing or mental health concerns. An overwhelming majority (97%) supported the idea of a Couchiching-specific centralized service directory or app to help navigate available resources.

Perceptions of Safety

Eighty-seven percent of residents reported feeling safe in their community. Still, many suggested that increased access to mental health, addiction, and shelter services could help improve feelings of safety, particularly in response to visible homelessness.

Youth Mental Health

Residents expressed concern about the adequacy of mental health supports for youth. While some acknowledged that existing supports are underused, there was a shared perception that available services may not be reaching those in need.

Barriers to Access

Long wait times were identified as one of the most significant barriers to accessing services. Respondents also emphasized the need for easier access through a single point of entry and called for more support programs to be available in schools.



Insights From Providers (one-to-one consultations, targeted engagement, survey, and live sessions)

Housing and Homelessness

Service providers emphasized the urgent need for increased access to affordable housing and stronger protections against renovations. They highlighted the importance of working toward a "functional zero" approach to homelessness, where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. Housing was described as foundational to well-being, with providers noting that without stable housing, efforts to address other needs, such as mental health, employment, or substance use, are significantly hindered.

Providers also pointed out that visible homelessness in public spaces affects perceptions of safety, while those experiencing homelessness often face real and ongoing risks to their personal safety and health.

Integrated and Lifespan-Based Mental Health and Addiction (MHA) Services and Supports

Participants called for more integrated MHA services that support individuals across the lifespan, particularly transitional-aged youth who often fall between child and adult systems. Seamless, timely pathways to care were seen as essential. Providers advocated for service models that are proactive, prevention-oriented, and designed around people's lived experiences and developmental stages.

Navigation and Access

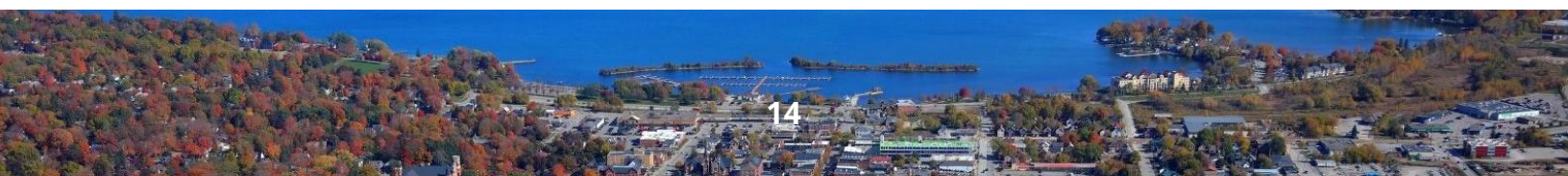
There was a clear call for centralized, up-to-date information about available services and supports. Providers stressed the need for systems that are easier to navigate, with improved opportunities for individuals and families to self-navigate and self-book into services when appropriate. Streamlining access and improving visibility of services were seen as key strategies to help reduce barriers to care.

Equity and Cultural Relevance

To better support equity-deserving groups, including newcomers, racialized communities, Indigenous Peoples, seniors, and youth, service providers identified the need for more culturally appropriate resources and targeted training. They also noted a gap in reliable data about the populations facing systemic barriers, which makes it difficult to tailor services effectively.

Coordination and Collaboration

Improved coordination of services and resources was seen as critical to reducing duplication, shortening wait times, and delivering more holistic support. Providers pointed to the need for stronger collaboration across organizations, including the development of shared goals, clearer communication channels, and enhanced mechanisms for data sharing and collective decision-making.





Key Data

Housing and Homelessness

21% of the 607 people surveyed in the 2024 Point-in-Time (PiT) Count⁶ were from Orillia and Area.

As of May 29, 2025, 361 people are identified in the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)⁷ as experiencing homelessness in Couchiching. This number is subject to change as the HIFIS database is continuously updated with new and ongoing entries.

Mental Health and Addiction

44.7% of elementary students reported feeling positive emotions like happiness and calm, which has decreased from 2019⁸ (Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board).

<50% of secondary students said they feel comfortable expressing their emotions at school⁹ (Simcoe County District School Board)

60% of provider survey respondents reported a 'significant change' in mental health concerns in people served.

52% of provider survey respondents reported 'a significant change' related to substance use/addiction of their clients served¹⁰.

Simcoe County has higher rates of Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations for self-harm and death by suicide compared to the provincial average¹¹.

Resident survey respondents' top responses to the three biggest barriers to youth accessing mental health and or addiction support and services were long wait times, lack of awareness, and stigma.

⁶ The Point-in-Time (PiT) Count is a snapshot of homelessness in a community, capturing the number and basic demographics of individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night.

⁷ HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System) is a federally supported, real-time database used by service providers to track and coordinate homelessness-related data and services.

⁸ Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, Elementary and Secondary Climate Reports, 2024

⁹ Simcoe County District School Board's (SCDSB) School 2023-24 Climate Survey

¹⁰ CSWB Provider Survey, 2025

¹¹ [Health Stats Dashboard, SMDHU 2020-2023](#)

Access

37% increase in calls to 211 from 2019-2023 from Couchiching municipalities.

Top reasons for 211 calls: 1. Housing 2. Income 3. Mental Health/Health



Strategies

Couchiching CSWB Plan 2025-2029



The principles of equity, diversity and inclusion will underpin our approach

Safe and Supported: Strengthening Pathways Out of Homelessness

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community. For people experiencing homelessness, the lack of stable housing can lead to increased vulnerability and involvement in high-risk situations. At the same time, some residents who are not experiencing homelessness may feel unsafe, particularly in parks or downtown areas where visible homelessness is more common. This strategy focuses on improving safety for everyone by strengthening connections to housing, outreach, support services, and ways to mitigate safety-related concerns for all residents.



Social Development

Risk Intervention

Lead Agency

County of Simcoe

Partners:

Homeless System providers and appropriate Health System providers

Goal

Improve perceptions of safety of the community and safety related to critical incidents for those experiencing homelessness

Objective

Enhance coordinated access to housing and social supports to reduce housing-related safety incidents for those experiencing homelessness

Action

Strengthen referral pathways to prevention supports and reduction strategies for homelessness through:

- Centralized Outreach
- Shelter/Supportive Housing
- Case Conferencing / Navigation Tables

Exploratory Measures to Consider

- Perceptions of safety (housed and unhoused residents in the community)
- Safety related to critical incidents
- Housing-focused outcomes

Transitional-Aged Youth Services Network

Young people aged 12 to 25 (transitional-aged) face growing mental health and addiction challenges. Currently, services can be hard to access and are often disconnected, leaving youth and their families unsure where to turn for help. This strategy supports the current development of an Integrated Youth Services Network that brings agencies together to make services easier to access, more connected, and better tailored to the needs of youth.

Creating a single-entry point (the networked system of providers) and encouraging collaboration between service providers will help reduce gaps in support, respond to the needs of a growing and changing population, and ensure services are appropriate for each stage of youth development. When youth and their families get the right help, they feel better and do better.



Lead Agency

CFS Counselling and Well-Being through the work of the Integrated Youth Services Network

Partners: Youth Hubs, Justice, School Boards, Indigenous Services, Child Welfare, Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), Child Youth & Family Services Coalition of Simcoe County (CY&FSCSC), Youth

Goal

Improved mental health and well-being outcomes for youth aged 12-25

Objective

Enhance coordinated, accessible, and developmentally appropriate mental health and addiction (MHA) services for youth

Action

Support the development and expansion of the emerging Integrated Youth Services Network that will prioritize:

- Creating a single access point into the system
- Expanding collaborative and integrated programs
- Adapting services to population growth and diversity
- Identifying service barriers and gaps

Exploratory Measures to Consider:

- Collaboration
- Service-related outcomes for youth
- Youth and caregiver satisfaction results

Gateways to Services and Supports

Accessing mental health support can be confusing and frustrating for both residents and service providers when there are multiple entry points, unclear pathways, or outdated information. This strategy aims to improve timely and coordinated access to mental health services by aligning navigation tools, referral processes, and booking systems. Through the “Gateways to Mental Health” initiative, existing access points like 1 Door, 211, library-based navigators, online referrals, and a new community directory will be better connected and supported. By coordinating efforts, expanding self-booking options, equipping navigators with current information, and offering both digital and non-digital ways to access support, this strategy will make it easier for people to find and connect with the help they need, when they need it.



Lead Agency

Couchiching OHT Working Group: Mental Health and Addiction -Social Determinants of Health (MHA-SDoH)

Partners:

Couchiching Ontario Health Team, CFS Counselling and Wellbeing, Community Connection/211, Waypoint, Couchiching Family Health Team, Newpath, City of Orillia

Goal

Improve timely and coordinated access to mental health supports through aligned navigation services, supports, tools and self-booking options.

Objective

Connect and strengthen existing mental health access points, such as navigation lines, referral tools, and self-booking systems, to ensure residents and providers can access accurate, streamlined, and user-friendly pathways to care.

Action

Launch a “Gateways to Mental Health” initiative that brings together current access points, including 1 Door, 211, library-based navigation, online referrals, and the developing community directory. This initiative will:

- Coordinate efforts to reduce duplication and close service gaps
- Expand self-booking tools across more providers
- Equip navigators with centralized, current resources
- Improve access through both digital and in-person options

Exploratory Measures to Consider

- Access and Navigation
- Coordination and Integration
- User Experience and Awareness

Informing Action

Access to consistent, meaningful data was a key challenge during the first CSWB Plan. Many partners used different systems, tracked different indicators, and had limited capacity to share data-making it difficult to assess progress or respond to emerging issues.

This strategy takes a more practical and collaborative approach. By starting with an inventory of existing datasets and exploring shared indicators tied to plan priorities, the County can build a stronger foundation for future data work. This phased model emphasizes learning, trust-building, and achievable steps rather than overcommitting to complex systems too early.

Aligned with the provincial CSWB framework, this strategy supports *collaboration*, *risk prevention*, and *information sharing* by helping partners better understand what drives safety and well-being across communities. It also responds directly to lessons learned from the first plan: start small, focus on alignment, and use what's already available to guide smarter decisions moving forward.



Social Development

Prevention

Risk Intervention

Lead Agency

Simcoe County

Partners:

Police Services, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Community Connection, other relevant partners

Goal

To support municipalities and community partners in better understanding and responding to community safety and well-being issues through practical, collaborative data initiatives

Objective

Begin with achievable steps to map, access, and use shared data to support CSWB planning, decision-making, and ongoing learning

Action

The County of Simcoe will lead this work by:

- Hiring a summer student to map available datasets across CSWB-related organizations and assess potential for sharing
- Exploring key indicators with partners that align with the priorities in the Plan(s)
- Identifying current data gaps and exploring potential sources of supplementary data (e.g., Environics Analytics), recognizing any cost limitations.
- Exploring safe and practical ways to share data in the future
- Using lessons learned from this phase to inform future data-related collaborations

Exploratory Measures to Consider

- Data and Inventory
- Partner Engagement
- Capacity-Building and Relationship Development
- Innovation and Learning

Coordinating Action and Measuring Progress

Governance and Advisory Support

The following three groups play key roles in the development, monitoring, and alignment of the CSWB Plan:

Couchiching Geographical Municipal Coordinating Committee (GMCC) – This group is responsible for oversight and governance of the CSWB Plan. The GMCC will provide oversight to create space for shared learning, reflection, and alignment across strategies, not day-to-day management.

CSWB Local Table – The Local Table serves as a subject matter advisory group that monitors progress on the CSWB Plan and provides input on the local application of both county-wide and locally developed strategies. A subset (executive group) from the local table will report back to the GMCC and to the Simcoe County CSWB Advisory Body.

Simcoe County CSWB Advisory Body (formerly referred to as the CSWB Steering Committee in the 2021-2025 Plan) - The Advisory Body, comprised of subject matter experts across areas of risk, plays a key role in matters of county-wide interest or application as well as aligning CSWB planning with broader system planning through joint strategic efforts that support the collective advancement of local and regional CSWB strategies.

Actioning the Strategies

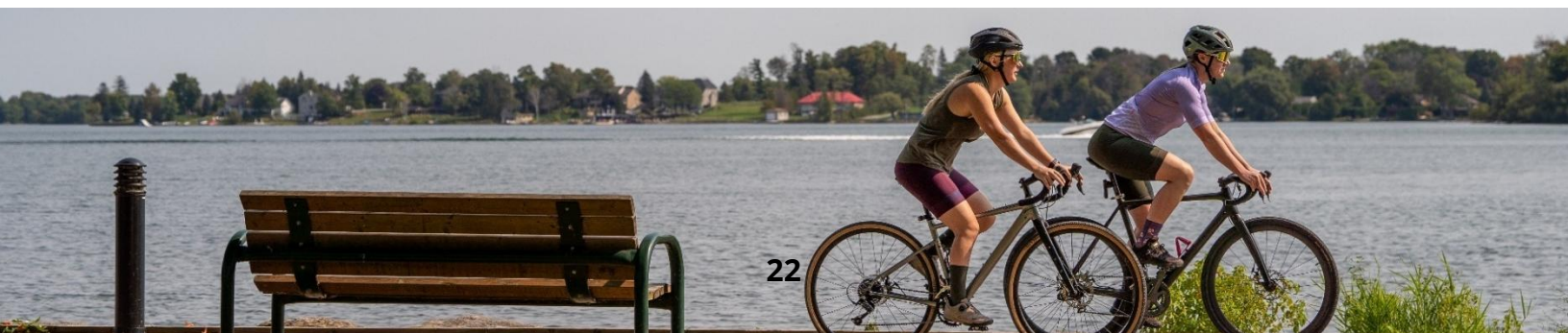
Strategy Leads - Each strategy in this Plan will be led by a designated Lead Agency with partner support.

Implementation of the strategies will be phased to encourage collaboration, learning, and adaptation.

In the first year, each strategy lead will:

- Clarify roles
- Explore early measures of success
- Identify key performance indicators
- Set baselines and data-sharing methods
- Launch activities toward their goals

This approach follows the CSWB Framework's focus on proactive planning, shared accountability, and continuous improvement, using local data and lived experience to keep strategies flexible and responsive.



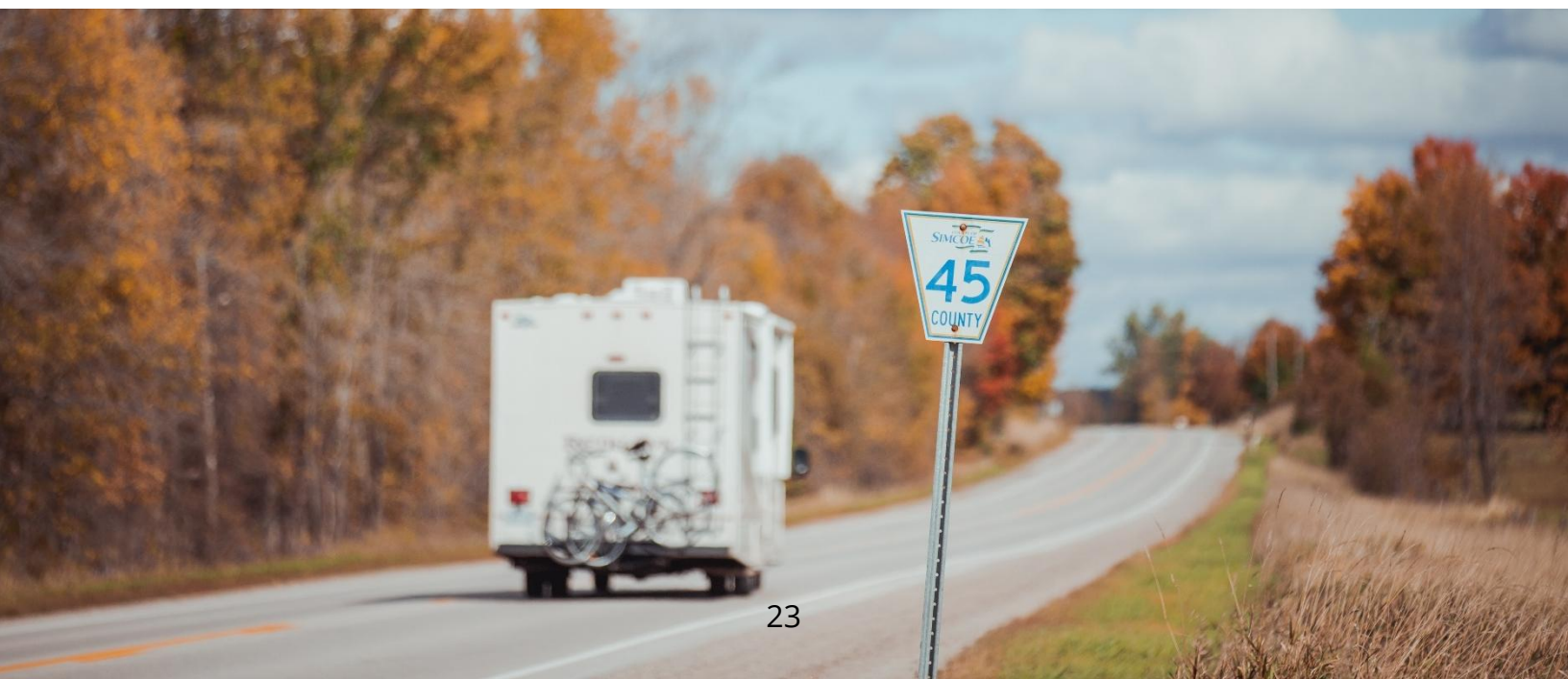
Other Important Priorities Beyond this Plan

During our engagement with community members and service providers, we heard many thoughtful and meaningful ideas. While not all are reflected in this version of the Plan, they remain important. Some are already underway, some need more time or resources, and some may inform future planning.

These priorities are included here, so they are not forgotten. They may guide future work, support others in shaping initiatives, or be part of a future Plan update.

- **Pathways to safety for victims of intimate partner and gender-based violence** – The absence of an articulated strategy in the refreshed Plan does not diminish the keen awareness that we need to work with community partners to improve access and outcomes for those at risk and victims.
- **Continuous Engagement** – Recognizing that some voices and demographics may have been underrepresented in the initial engagement process, the implementation of this Plan will include a commitment to ongoing and responsive engagement, exploring methods beyond traditional approaches as needed to better reflect the diversity of perspectives in the community.
- **Access to Healthcare** - Primary and specialist care, mental health supports, and timely services remain an important priority. Health system partners continue to work toward improving access and equity across the region, and their efforts will be key to supporting overall community well-being.
- **Addressing poverty** – Finding ways to identify poverty-risk earlier, so that early interventions and assistance can be offered. Collaborative groups are working to address this.

As this work moves forward, the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion will remain essential to ensuring a wide range of voices and experiences are reflected.



Building On What Exists

The Couchiching CSWB Plan was developed in the context of a wide range of ongoing work across the municipalities, Simcoe County, and the community. The Plan strategies are intended to align with and support these broader efforts. Where possible, actions in this Plan build on work already underway or amplify it through collaboration.

Housing / Homelessness

Plan / Strategy Name	Lead	How it Aligns
City of Orillia Affordable Housing Action Plan 2023	City of Orillia	Outlines a comprehensive strategy to address the city's immediate, medium, and long-term affordable housing needs.
Community Improvement Plan (CIP):	City of Orillia	A tool used by municipalities to incentivize private and public sector investment within a prescribed area.
10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy And the 10-point homelessness prevention strategy	County of Simcoe	Outlines steps for the development and implementation of creative solutions for increasing affordable housing
Also Aligned: the work of Simcoe County Alliance To End Homelessness, Coordinated Access for Homelessness, the Municipal Liaison Group		

Mental Health and Addiction

Plan / Strategy Name	Lead	How it Aligns
SCDSB Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan	Simcoe County District School Board	Guides priorities for advancing school mental health
SMCDSB Mental Health and Well-Being Strategic Priorities and Action Plan	Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board	Guides priorities for advancing school mental health
Also Aligned: Couchiching Opioid Working Group, Simcoe Muskoka Drug Strategy (SMDS)		

Data

Plan / Strategy Name	Lead	How it Aligns
County of Simcoe Interactive Map (GIS)	County of Simcoe	Provides interactive maps and spatial data that help identify community needs, plan services, and support evidence-based decision-making for community safety and well-being
County Of Simcoe Data Portal	County of Simcoe	The online portal supports Simcoe County and its partners in identifying community needs through data
Health Stats Simcoe Muskoka	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit	Provides information and data about the health status of Simcoe and Muskoka people and communities
Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) Diversity Hub Contact: sclip@simcoe.ca	Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership	To connect stakeholders and provide local access to resources that support inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility for vulnerable populations in Simcoe County
Also Aligned: Simcoe County Data Consortium		

Appendix A: Organizations and Voices that Helped Inform the Plan

Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle /
Mamaway Wiidokdaadwin

Barrie Native Friendship Centre

Biminaawzogin Regional Aboriginal
Women's Circle (BRAWC)

Canadian Mental Health Association
Simcoe County

Catulpa Community Support Services

CFS Counselling + Well-Being

Child Youth & Family Services Coalition of
Simcoe County

City of Orillia

City of Orillia (Janet-Lynne Durnford)

Community Connection

Couchiching Family Health Team

Couchiching Ontario Health Team

Couchiching Residents (survey
respondents)

County of Simcoe – Health and
Emergency Services

County of Simcoe – Housing and
Community Social Services

Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe Muskoka

Empower Simcoe

Family Connexions

Huron Transition Homes

John Howard Society of Simcoe &
Muskoka

New Path Youth and Family Services

North Simcoe Muskoka Specialized
Geriatric Services

Ontario Provincial Police (Orillia and Area
Detachment)

Seven South Street Treatment Centre

Simcoe County District School Board

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School
Board

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

The Gilbert Centre

The Lighthouse

The Sharing Place

Township of Oro-Medonte

Township of Ramara

Township of Severn

United Way Simcoe County

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health

Women and Children's Shelter Barrie

Appendix B: Helpful Acronyms and Terms

Acronyms

- **CMHA** – Canadian Mental Health Association
- **CSWB** – Community Safety and Well-Being
- **GMCC** – Geographic Municipal Coordinating Committee (GMCC)
- **MHA** – Mental Health and Addiction
- **OHT** – Ontario Health Team
- **SMDHU** – Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Terms

- **Case Conferencing / Navigation Tables** – Regular meetings where service providers collaboratively coordinate care and support for individuals with complex needs.
- **Coordinated Access** – A streamlined process where individuals are matched to services through a shared intake and referral system across agencies.
- **Equity-Deserving Groups** – Communities who experience systemic barriers to access, opportunities, and resources, such as racialized people, Indigenous populations, 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals, and others.
- **Integrated Youth Services Network** – A group of service providers working together to improve access, coordination, and quality of services for youth.
- **Navigation / Navigators** – People or services that help individuals understand and access the right support systems.
- **Outreach Services** – Services delivered directly to people in the community (rather than in a fixed location), often targeting individuals who face barriers to accessing traditional services.
- **Risk Intervention** – Targeted actions to support people facing escalating challenges before a crisis occurs.

Appendix B: CSWB Framework

The Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Framework is a way for communities across Ontario to work together to make life better and safer for everyone. It helps us look at the big picture, what people need to live well, and focus on preventing problems before they become emergencies.

The Province of Ontario created a model to guide how communities do this work. It resembles a bullseye with four layers, or “areas of focus.” Each layer shows a different way we can support people in our community, from long-term planning (green) to immediate help in a crisis (red).

The Four Areas of Focus

Social Development

Improving housing, education, mental health, and employment over time creates stronger communities and reduces future risks.

Prevention

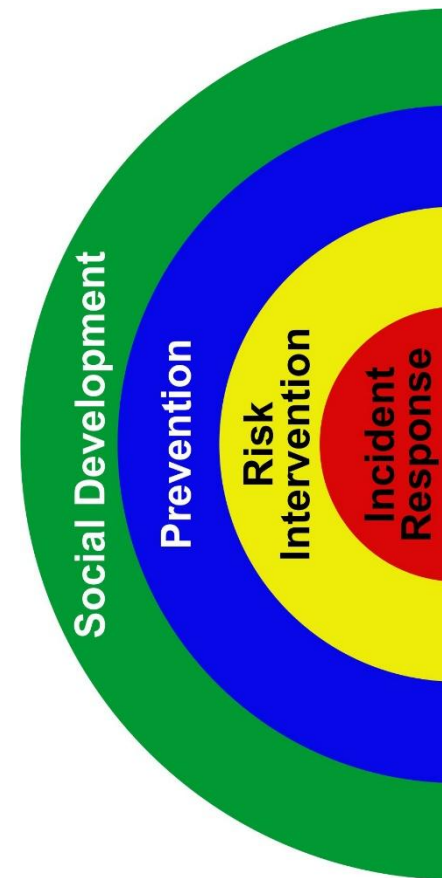
Early action through programs and outreach helps address issues before they become serious.

Risk Intervention

Coordinated support is provided to individuals or families showing signs of serious challenges to prevent crises.

Incident Response

Emergency services address urgent situations, with a long-term goal of reducing the need for crisis intervention



How We Work Together

Collaboration

Bringing together partners from various sectors and services to work towards more effective and coordinated solutions.

Sharing

Sharing de-identified data helps partners understand emerging needs and risks, leading to better-informed and unified responses.

Measuring Progress

Tracking results shows what is working and where.



