

Chatham-Kent Homeless Response Line 519.354.6628

The Homeless Response Line is a centralized “after-hours” point of contact for people, in crisis, experiencing emergency homelessness in Chatham-Kent.

The Homeless Response Line is a community service initiative of The Chatham-Kent Housing & Homelessness Committee.

The line will be answered daily from 4:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday to Friday, and 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays.

Callers will be screened, diverted to safe temporary housing with family/friends or referred to local emergency accommodations.

This service will be supported using existing resources and community partnerships, without additional financial investment.

The Homeless Response Line encompasses Homelessness Plan priorities and recommendations including:

- ❖ Access to local emergency shelter within a “Housing First” framework
- ❖ Consistent screening and diversion protocols to temporary and safe alternative accommodation
- ❖ Improved coordination of referrals and services for people experiencing homelessness

About Homelessness in Chatham-Kent

- ❖ Homelessness in Chatham-Kent is often invisible, yet it is increasing, and it affects families as well as individuals.
- ❖ It is estimated that between 590 and 629 individuals and families experienced homelessness in Chatham-Kent and sought assistance as a result in 2012-2013.
- ❖ 3,187 households sought assistance through the Chatham-Kent Shelter Solutions Homelessness Prevention program in the last 12 months.
- ❖ Access to emergency accommodation is limited in Chatham-Kent, and there is a need for increased access to temporary supports to help households attain housing stability, as well as a need for more intensive forms of support for people who have deeper needs related to addiction and mental illness.
- ❖ Rent in Chatham-Kent is continuing to rise, despite high vacancy rates, and low-income households, particularly those receiving social assistance, cannot afford housing, which places them at risk of homelessness.

For more information visit [Chatham-Kent Homelessness Plan](http://www.chatham-kent.ca/Chatham-Kent-Homelessness-Plan) on www.chatham-kent.ca.