

A Place for Everyone



KDSB
KENORA DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD

Eighth Annual Report: **2021 Progress**
10 Year Housing & Homelessness Plan

Our Mission: Dedicated to Improving Lives

Our Vision: With forward thinking and engaged employees, we achieve consistent service and better outcomes

As the Service Manager for the Kenora District, the KDSB is responsible for the financial support of 1,259 existing social housing units and serves an important role in the delivery and development of new affordable housing programs.

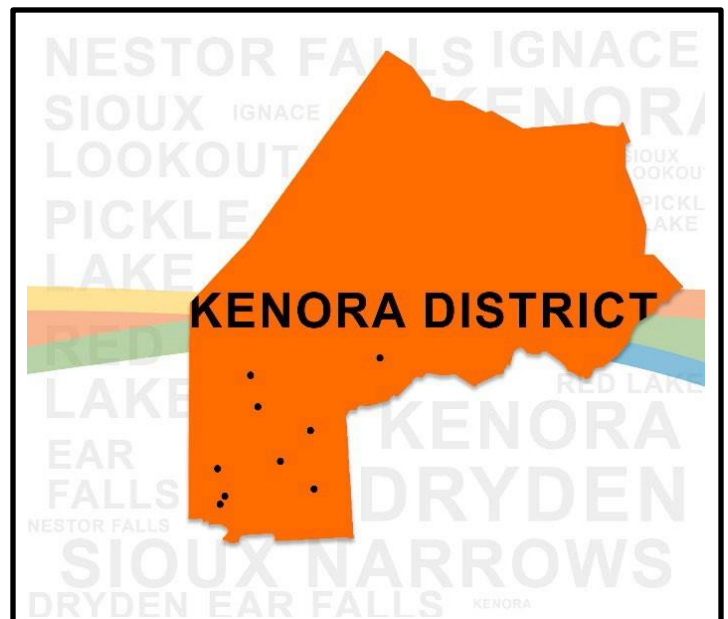
The KDSB also administers homeless support and homelessness prevention programs throughout the Kenora District.

The **Kenora District Services Board** was formed in 1999 under the *District Social Services Administration Boards Act*. The KDSB acts as a Service System Manager for human services and paramedic land ambulance services serving the following areas:

- Dryden
- Ear Falls
- Ignace
- Kenora
- Machin
- Pickle Lake
- Red Lake
- Sioux Lookout
- Sioux Narrows/Nestor Falls
- Four Unincorporated Territories

Services that the KDSB is responsible for providing include:

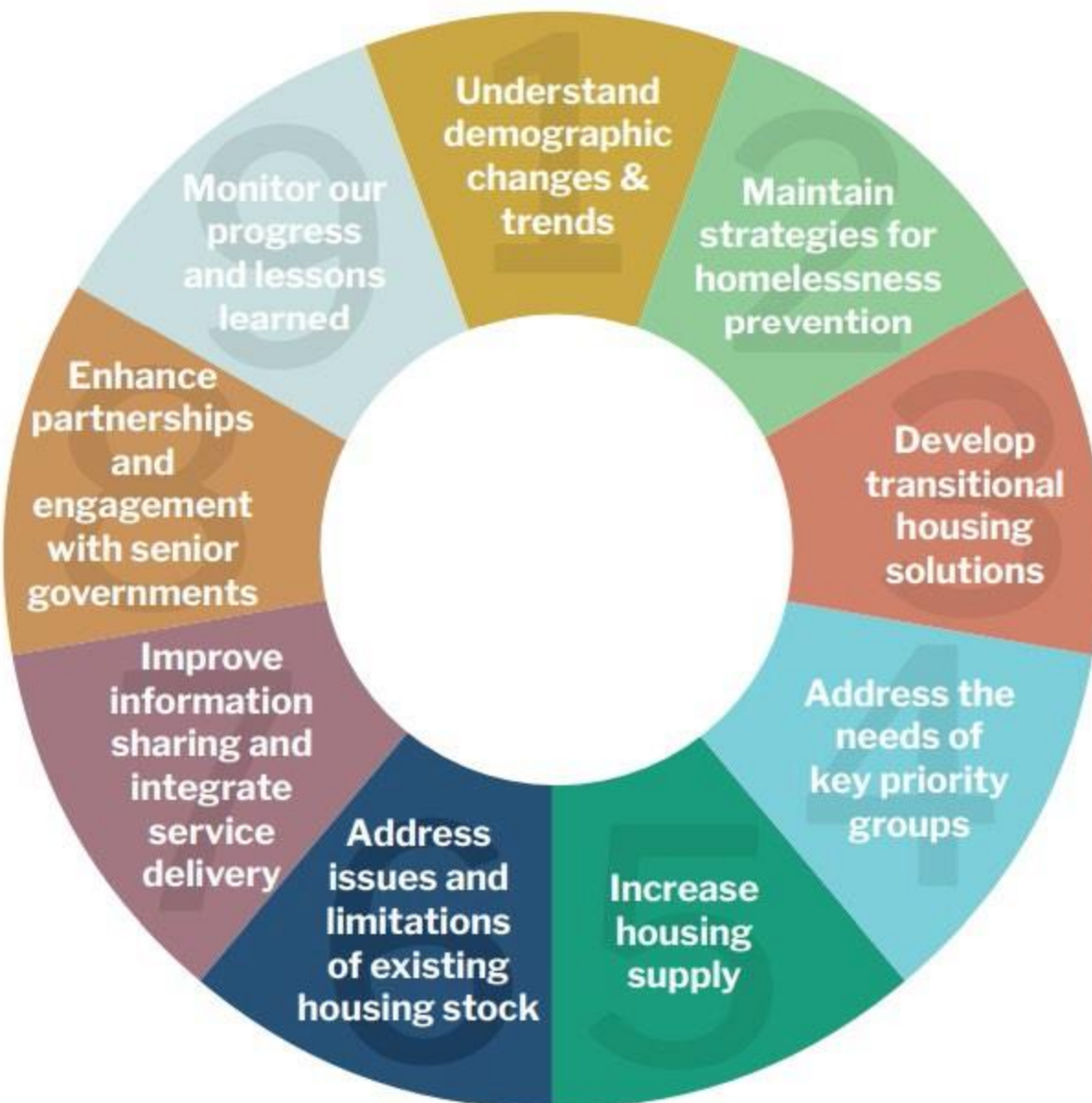
- Integrated Social Services, including Community Housing, Early Years Services, Employment and Financial Support Services.
- Financial support of 1,259 existing social housing units
- Emergency Medical Services, including Primary Care Paramedicine, Land Ambulance and Community Paramedicine services



The Municipalities and Unincorporated Territories (Territories Without Municipal Organization, or TWOMO) within the District of Kenora, and the Province of Ontario pay for these services.

A Place for Everyone 2021 represents the eighth year, seventh progress report, and the implementation of our plans update for the KDSB and provides an overview of local housing statistics, housing program summaries and key accomplishments achieved over the past year. In 2021, many challenges, dynamic situations, and changes continue to be observed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. These achievements represent the dedication and hard work of many individuals and organizations working together to improve housing situations, outcomes, and offer viable options across our region.

Nine Priorities:



What is Social Housing?



Social housing, rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing and public housing are all terms used to describe housing where rents are based on the tenant's gross monthly income. The KDSB is required to make a minimum number of RGI units available in the District as prescribed by the *Housing Services Act, 2011*.

For those individuals and families receiving Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support, rent is based on a scale prescribed by provincial legislation. For others, their rent is calculated at 30% of the gross income earned by all members of the household.

Types of financially assisted housing available through the KDSB:

Rent-Geared-to-Income Housing

RGI rent is determined based on the gross income earned by all members of the household, typically 30% of the gross monthly household income. As the household income changes, so will the RGI rent.

Rent Supplement Housing

The KDSB partners with landlords across the Kenora District in order to offer RGI rent within their housing units. The KDSB staff calculates the amount of rent the household will pay the landlord based on the RGI guidelines. The KDSB pays the landlord directly the difference between the amount the household is required to pay the landlord and the agreed-upon market rent.

Housing Allowance

Through programs such as the Investment in Affordable Housing, Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Housing Benefit and Homes for Good, the KDSB provides a variety of housing allowances in cases where the market rent is not affordable to those with marginal and low incomes. The housing allowance programs offer a range of subsidies that support tenants to be able to access private market housing. The housing allowances are fixed monthly amounts that are paid to the tenant or can be paid to the landlord directly if the tenant agrees. These programs reduce the amount of household income that is required to pay rent, allowing that household income to be available for food and life essentials (utilities, transportation, etc.).

Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 presented many challenges that were not accounted for in KDSB's Housing and Homelessness Plan.

The KDSB continued its partnerships with District Shelters. COVID-19 created a high volume of additional planning, isolation shelters, PPE, safety protocols, limitations for capacity within existing infrastructure, and staff safety.

The KDSB implemented requirements based on Provincial guidelines and local Public Health direction.

In 2021, many of the KDSB's resources were substantially impacted in order to support COVID-19 standards to ensure operations were safe and sustainable in congregate settings. Although this work was not indicated in the KDSB's plan, it took a substantial amount of impacts on staffing, infrastructure and resources.

The KDSB experienced challenges with securing and sourcing contractors and supplies in order to complete planned work.

The KDSB observed an inflation of cost on standard and required material. Many projects increased in cost that were originally budgeted for less.

Maximum Provincial Social Assistance Rates per month:

**These rates have not increased since 2018*

Maximum	Basic Needs	Shelter
Single	\$343.00	\$390.00
Couple	\$494.00	\$642.00
Couple + 1 Child	\$494.00	\$697.00
Couple + 2 Children	\$494.00	\$756.00
Single Parent + 1 Child	\$360.00	\$642.00
Single Parent + 2 Children	\$360.00	\$756.00



2021 Social Assistance caseload in the Kenora District:

The caseload in the Kenora District fluctuates throughout the year, increasing during the winter months and declining in the summer as households find seasonal employment.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the offering of emergency financial supports like the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the KDSB observed an overall decrease in caseload from the previous year.

	Kenora	Dryden	Sioux Lookout	Red Lake	Ignace	Pickle Lake	Ear Falls	KDSB Total
March	233	173	102	63	34	1	12	618
June	226	171	107	62	35	10	9	620
September	205	167	109	54	36	11	8	590
December	225	185	109	59	39	9	6	632

Working Poor:

A person working full-time at 8 hours per day at **\$14.35** minimum wage only has **\$746** available towards their monthly rent costs. This represents **30%** of their gross monthly income.



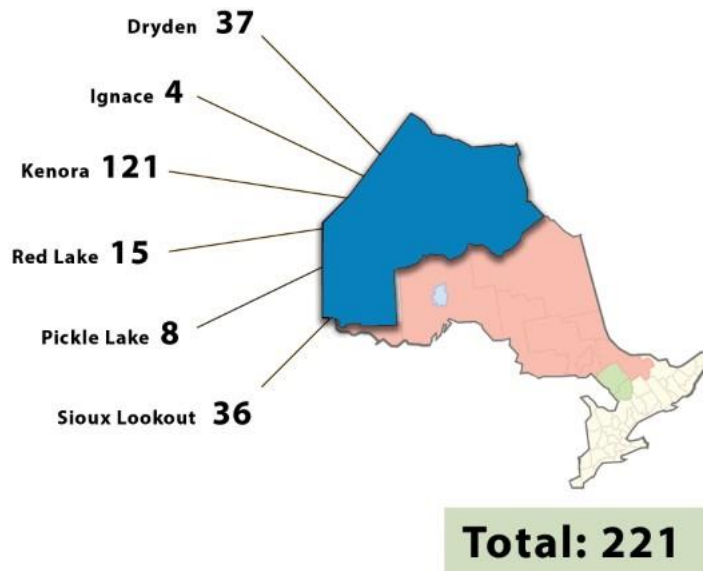
In comparison KDSB's Actual Market Rent study, completed in 2019, an individual securing 1-bedroom housing would be expected to pay the following:

- Township of Ignace, Ear Falls, Machin, Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls, Pickle Lake: **\$696.00**
- City of Kenora: **\$1,107.40**
- City of Dryden: **\$716.07**
- Municipality of Sioux Lookout: **\$981.37**
- Municipality of Red Lake: **\$976.00**

Homelessness

In 2021, the KDSB executed its Homelessness Enumeration. Baseline data is vital to understanding the challenges of homelessness and the extent of homelessness in the District.

Through the support of the Ministry of Housing, the KDSB conducted a Point-in-Time Count of the nine municipalities of the Kenora District in October 2021.



221 individuals were found to be homeless in the District of Kenora. 118 surveys were completed across the Kenora District. An additional 103 individuals were observed as homeless.

36% of survey respondents were between the ages of 25-35

Top 3 reasons for homelessness:

- Health (*hospitalization, treatment program, physical or mental health issue*)
- Addiction or Substance Use Issue
- Conflict (*with a spouse/partner or parent/guardian or other*)

Most homeless individuals were sleeping in an Emergency Shelter, unsheltered in a public space, or at someone else's place the night the survey was conducted.

88% of homeless individuals surveyed self-identified as Indigenous.

Through 2021's findings, it is shown that homelessness is a complex issue with many facets such as trauma, the legacy of the residential school system, lack of adequate housing within First Nations communities, and addictions and mental health challenges. It has also been unequivocally demonstrated that the lack of safe, adequate, and affordable housing in the Kenora District's Municipalities has a significant impact on the ability to achieve other health, justice, education, and employment outcomes.

Addressing housing needs across the Kenora District is the key to life stabilization and community safety and well-being planning.

Addressing housing and homelessness needs in the Kenora District:

As the Service System Manager for Housing in the Kenora District, KDSB facilitates many roles in the development, operation and ongoing funding sustainability of the housing continuum;

Leader, Informer, Capacity Builder, Developer, Coordinator and Landlord

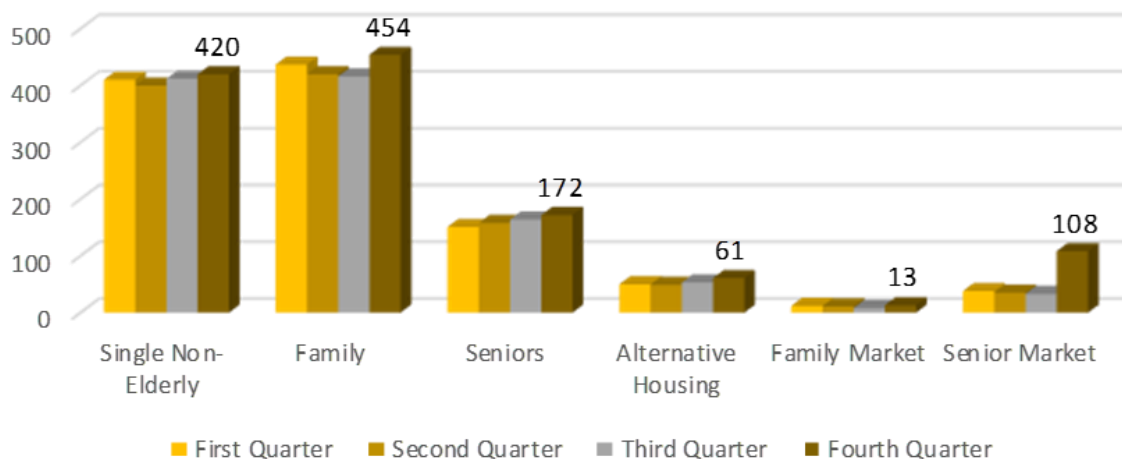
KDSB also administers the following programs and initiatives to address homelessness in the Kenora District.

Community Housing Programs

The KDSB maintains 1,259 housing units in the District: the KDSB owns 845, 224 are owned by non-profit housing providers, 80 are rent supplement units, and 110 are Housing with Support units. KDSB is responsible for the oversight and administration of these units. KDSB's Integrated Social Services Department administers the housing waitlist and eligibility for RGI units.

2021 Total Number of Applications on Centralized Waitlist for Rent-Geared-to-Income and Market Rent

Totals Applications by Household Types 1228



**Data for the end of 2021 demonstrates total applications by consolidating the applications by community. There is a potential for approximately 20% of the applications to be counted more than once. This is a result of households applying in multiple communities across the District.*

Total Number of Households on the Housing Waitlist = 1,078*

Completed Developments

• Kenora Kendall House	9 Units
• Kenora KACL Accessible Housing Conversion	4 Units
• Kenora Municipal Non-Profit, assumed assets and operations	208 Units
• Dryden Senior Housing	40 Units
• Red Lake Municipal Non-Profit, assumed property management	44 Units
• Red Lake Norseman Inn acquisition	22 units
• Red Lake New Starts for Women Second Stage Housing	10 units
• Red Lake Area Emergency Shelter (KDSB assumed temporary operation)	14 Beds and 2 units

Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI)

A total of \$161, 227 in funding was accessed on behalf of eligible households in 2021 through AHI. AHI provided rent subsidy to 45 households determined to be financially eligible for a period of 30 months.

Housing and Homelessness Programs

The KDSB has entered into service contracts with local service providers to deliver a range of programs and services to assist individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These services include emergency shelters, transitional housing, supportive housing, housing with supports and other programs.

Average Market Rent 2021:

**Note: Based on the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. Rental Market Survey.*

	AMR	80% AMR	Modified OW Shelter Allowance	Allowable Average Rent
Bachelor	**	**	\$410.00	\$410.00
1 Bedroom	\$763.00	\$610.00	\$542.00	\$610.00
2 Bedroom	\$1,039.00	\$831.00	\$732.00	\$831.00
3 Bedroom	**	**	\$794.00	\$794.00
4 Bedroom	**	**	\$856.00	\$856.00

***Data Suppressed to Protect Confidentiality or Data is not Statistically Reliable*

These amounts are not reflective of the local market rent. Many factors affect the housing costs in the Kenora District. Diverse economies within the District impact the wages and rental availability driving up housing costs. The limited rental stock is another factor as well as high utility costs and extreme cold through winter months. In many communities, natural gas is not available, and electricity is the only heating option.

Actual Market Rent 2019:

In 2019, the KDSB conducted an Actual Market Rent Study. This allows for the KDSB to demonstrate that understated Average Market rents for the District have a profound negative effect on its housing sector.

Average Market Rents					
Type	Bach	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR +
Kenora DSSAB* (rural)	\$519.00	\$696.00	\$857.00	\$943.00	\$1,016.00
City of Kenora	\$741.24	\$1,107.40	\$1,542.43	\$1,902.20	\$1,977.22
City of Dryden	\$537.05	\$716.07	\$941.04	\$1,106.60	\$1,192.26
Municipality of Sioux Lookout	\$736.03	\$981.37	\$1,044.21	\$1,234.42	\$1,301.33
Municipality of Red Lake	\$732.00	\$976.00	\$1,201.77	\$1,413.37	\$1,670.00

*Township of Ignace, Ear Falls, Machin, Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls and Pickle Lake

Affordable Rent (80% AMR)					
Type	Bach	1 BR	2 BR	3 BR	4 BR +
Kenora DSSAB* (rural)	\$415.20	\$556.80	\$685.60	\$754.40	\$812.80
City of Kenora	\$592.99	\$885.92	\$1,233.94	\$1,521.76	\$1,581.78
City of Dryden	\$429.64	\$572.86	\$752.83	\$885.28	\$953.81
Municipality of Sioux Lookout	\$588.82	\$785.10	\$835.37	\$987.54	\$1,041.06
Municipality of Red Lake	\$585.60	\$780.80	\$961.42	\$1,130.70	\$1,336.00

The number of private apartment units remains low across the Kenora District. There are more ads on social media advertising looking to rent than landlords advertising available units. This trend ensures the barriers remain for most individuals and families. Often, there are no vacancies in communities they would prefer to reside in and therefore struggle with high rent or poor housing conditions, increasing the numbers of provisionally accommodated individuals and families. Access to affordable housing is a barrier to employment.



Priority No. 1:

Understand Demographic Changes and Trends in Order to Meet Community Needs

Goal #1: Gather information from service providers and recipients

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to review available demographic information to anticipate evolving needs. Conducting a regular homelessness enumeration survey at 2-year intervals. Continuing to conduct independent Average Market Rent studies to gather accurate data specific to each town/city in the District. Tracking occupancy, turnover, and waiting lists for current units. Maintaining effective communication with tenants by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting tenant meetings to communicate policies. Developing a formal process to receive tenant feedback and concerns. Creating a one-on-one tenant support program that includes systems navigation assistance and education on ensuring successful tenancies. Meeting with service providers to identify challenges and successes in supporting tenants. 	<p>The KDSB continues to support area Hospitals and Health Centre's in efforts to increase long-term care beds and improve services available to Seniors.</p> <p>Locally, the KDSB strengthened service development planning with several partners to identify gaps in service delivery and co-plan for the achievement of common goals, in order to optimize service and housing stock. The reality is that more housing stock is needed. Significant partnerships have been developing between KDSB and programs in Health, Justice, Education, and Indigenous-specific service delivery.</p> <p>Within the District, KDSB developed working relationships with several organizations to host or participate in community-based planning and development of new housing programs.</p> <p>The KDSB partnered with Kenora Association for Community Living to convert 4 units for accessibility and specialized needs in supporting successful tenancy.</p> <p>The KDSB met with the All Nations Health Partners- Ontario Health Team and Kenora District Home for the Aged, to plan for and apply for on-site service delivery funding through the Ministry of Health for senior housing builds.</p> <p>Working in partnership with the City of Dryden and Northwestern Health Unit, a campaign called 'No place like a home', was launched to better understand the needs of those who identify as homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and additionally how service providers can work together to support these needs. A photovoice project was initiated through the Northwestern Health Unit to seek input from the vulnerable population.</p>

Goal #1: Gather information from service providers and recipients (continued)

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<p>The 65+ Population for Kenora, Dryden and Red Lake is projected to grow by 57% by 2025.</p> <p>The 65+ Population for Sioux Lookout and Northern Communities is projected to increase by 105% by 2025.</p> <p>Changing needs of Seniors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing face of seniors • Insufficient options for housing • Outmigration of workforce – youths and adults • In-migration of Aboriginal people • Shrinking volunteer base <p><i>*NW LHIN Demand For Seniors' Services</i></p>	<p>The KDSB continues to actively participate in Community Well-being and Safety Planning across the District.</p> <p>Municipalities and police services have submitted their plans to the Ministry of the Solicitor General and establishment of pillars and implementation are underway. Social infrastructure and housing have been identified as a key pillar in every plan. The needs for a variety of safe, affordable housing continuum options are at the core of community safety and well-being planning. In addition, the KDSB supports and/or leads a number of community planning and development initiatives that are identified in the Work Plan of the Human Services and Justice Coordination Committee. This provides a deeper understanding of community needs through the lenses of health and justice and how the sectors have direct impacts and intersections with each other. KDSB has spent time and resources to understand what is driving the housing needs and understanding how multiple factors contribute to homelessness and housing.</p> <p>The KDSB began participating in municipal age-friendly community planning.</p> <p>The KDSB contracted Gladstone Consulting and Sonderbloom to determine need for a Withdrawal Management, Treatment Centre, and Supportive Housing business case. The project goal is to develop a comprehensive system that will build community capacity and allow individuals to participate in society in a meaningful way in City of Dryden, Sioux Lookout and surrounding First Nation communities.</p> <p>The KDSB will continue its Point in Time Count Enumeration every two years to gain vital baseline data on homelessness and factors that contribute to homelessness in the Kenora District. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the KDSB delayed its enumeration to October 2021.</p>

Goal #2: Assess current housing needs and project future demands

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compiling and publishing information in Annual Reports on the Housing and Homelessness Plan and incorporating it into future plans and updates. • Tracking and evaluating data collected in order to understand evolving trends in community needs and assess the ability of KDSB and other organizations to respond and meet those needs. 	<p>The KDSB awarded Urban Systems with the contract to conduct the development of a Regional Housing Strategy. The Regional Housing strategy moved into the consultation phase Regional Housing Strategy in summer of 2021. Developing the Regional Housing Strategy will consist of three main components: a Housing Needs Assessment; Housing Demand Study; and a Vacant Lands, Infrastructure, and Servicing analysis. Combined, these three parts will create a holistic understanding of housing needs, challenges, and opportunities in the District.</p>

Priority No. 2: Maintain Strategies for Homelessness Prevention**Goal #3: Maintain and support those currently housed**

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with partner agencies to support people who are currently housed in maintaining their housing. • Maintain and support those who are currently housed is developing protocols for proactive prevention in key transition moments. 	<p>The KDSB houses individuals that require various supports regarding mental health and addictions. The KDSB worked with third party organizations that assist individuals in maintaining tenancy, who struggle with financial security, mental health and addiction challenges.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic required a collaborative approach between Friendship Centre's, Ontario Native Women's Association, and other organizations to support financial stability in efforts to maintain housing and mitigate financial impacts caused by the pandemic.</p> <p>The KDSB provided \$252,630 in rent, mortgage, utilities, and home repair payments to 169 households to retain tenancy and keep people housed.</p>

Priority No. 3: Develop Transitional and Supportive Housing Programs for Those Experiencing Homelessness

Goal #4: Develop programs to support and address housing at key transition points

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners to develop programs and supports specific to these different transition points. 	<p>The KDSB has been working with multiple service delivery partners to establish Memorandums of Understanding that outline the key heads of understanding as well as roles and responsibilities of the partners.</p> <p>The KDSB worked with Kenora Chiefs Advisory and Canadian Mental Health Association-Kenora for initial planning development regarding housing and support strategies for those exiting the justice system.</p> <p>Units were secured with private landlords through the Homes for Good Agreement with Kenora Association for Community Living, and 45 households were supported with rent subsidies through the Affordable Housing Initiative Program.</p> <p>The KDSB continues its 8 supportive housing units partnership with the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre.</p> <p>Work continues to develop partnerships to better support the homeless populations across the region. KDSB is active in area Situation Tables, Healthy Community Task Forces, and Inter-Agency Committees in order to increase awareness of various programs available to support life stabilization and to move people through a continuum of housing tenancy. These partnerships look at how to bring services to individuals at the shelters to support improved outcomes and connections to community resources.</p>

Goal #5: Develop protocols to move homeless to housed

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop protocols to assist those individuals who can move from homeless shelters to transitional or permanent housing. 	<p>The KDSB continues community-specific partnerships with a variety of service delivery partners to support those who are unsheltered. Partners include the Kenora Association for Community Living, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Community Living Sioux Lookout Dryden, Dryden Native Friendship Centre, Dryden Regional Health Centre Mental Health and Addictions, New Starts for Women Inc., First Step Women's Shelter, Saakaate House, Hoshizaki House, Nishinawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre, Community Counselling, and the Ontario Disability Support Program.</p> <p>The KDSB continues its work with Kenora Association for Community Living to repurpose housing within Kenora to offer housing with supports for tenants.</p> <p>Partnered with New Starts for Women's Shelter Inc. in Red Lake for the provision of supports to the tenants of Ten Sisters Housing.</p>

Priority No. 4: Address the Needs of Key Priority Groups**Goal #6: Ensure culturally-safe housing solutions for Indigenous service recipients**

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to improve the housing outcomes for Indigenous community members includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing and strengthening mutually respectful relationships with First Nations and urban Indigenous communities. Working to create more culturally-safe housing solutions. 	<p>The KDSB continuously engages with Urban Indigenous Friendship Centre's to offer culturally appropriate services.</p> <p>In Sioux Lookout, the KDSB supports Nahnahda-Wee-ee-Waywin in on-site supports that allow tenants to maintain housing on Miller Crescent through Reaching Home.</p> <p>The KDSB partnered with Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre through the 10 Summers Road Supportive Housing.</p>

Goal #6: Ensure culturally-safe housing solutions for Indigenous service recipients (continued)

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging and making space for Indigenous organizations and community members to have greater input into housing and homelessness planning. ○ Improving the cultural and linguistic accessibility of integrated social services. <p><i>**KDSB's approach to working with First Nations and Urban Indigenous organizations goes beyond ensuring cultural needs are addressed.</i></p> <p><i>**KDSB's approach to housing planning strives to get to the root of what is contributing to housing needs. Housing is complex and requires an integrated understanding from the perspectives of Health, Education, Economic Development, Transportation and Justice.</i></p>	<p>The KDSB drafted the framework for the development of an MOU for Family Reunification program in Dryden with Anishinaabe Abinoojii Family Services.</p> <p>Since the Kenora District Services Board formally accepted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Calls to Action through Board Resolution in 2016, the KDSB has been leading how organizations can work with Indigenous People to support the achievement of common goals both Urban and on First Nation because of the direct relation and impact on each. In 2021, through program development programs with First Nation communities, the KDSB is committed to working together to achieve common goals. This has additionally provided opportunities for Indigenous people to access services in Kenora District Municipalities.</p> <p>The KDSB expanded its working relationships with urban Indigenous programs including the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, the Dryden Native Friendship Centre, Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre, Ne-Chee Friendship Centre, Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre and the local offices of the Ontario Native Women's Association. This work ensures common goals are identified to achieve better outcomes for individuals and families.</p> <p>Indigenous organizations are key partners in housing development and planning.</p>

Goal #7: Increase housing options for those escaping family violence

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support new transitional housing for people escaping family violence, with particular needs recognized for housing options in Sioux Lookout and Red Lake. • Improve protocols between KDSB Integrated Social Services, Children's Aid, and Women's Shelters in order to support those experiencing family violence to make informed choices about their futures. 	<p>The KDSB continues planning support to Nahnahda-Wee-ee-Waywin in Sioux Lookout through First Step Women's Shelter to support those experiencing Domestic Violence.</p> <p>Partnered with New Starts for Women's Shelter Inc. in Red Lake for the provision of supports to the tenants of Ten Sisters Housing.</p> <p>In 2021, the KDSB provided Rent-Geared-to-Income housing to 6 special priority applicants.</p> <p>In 2021, KDSB completed the capital development of a 10-unit second stage housing project for women and children fleeing Domestic Violence with New Starts for Women Inc. in Red Lake. Tenant selection and rental agreements were issued in December.</p> <p>KDSB is working with police, victims' service, mental health and addiction counselling services, women's services, child protection, developmental services, and Indigenous programs to raise awareness of the prevalence of human trafficking and gang interference and their impact on individual, family, and community safety well-being.</p> <p>KDSB continues work with multiple service delivery partners to work on pathways and protocol development on safe exit planning and relocation for victims fleeing violence and human trafficking.</p> <p>KDSB amended internal processes and eligibility criteria to ensure safe community planning.</p> <p>The KDSB partnered with Saakaate House to purchase Kendall House to support women with infants or women who were pregnant in escaping domestic violence.</p>

Goal #8: Develop protocols and coordinate services to better support youth aging out of care (18-24)

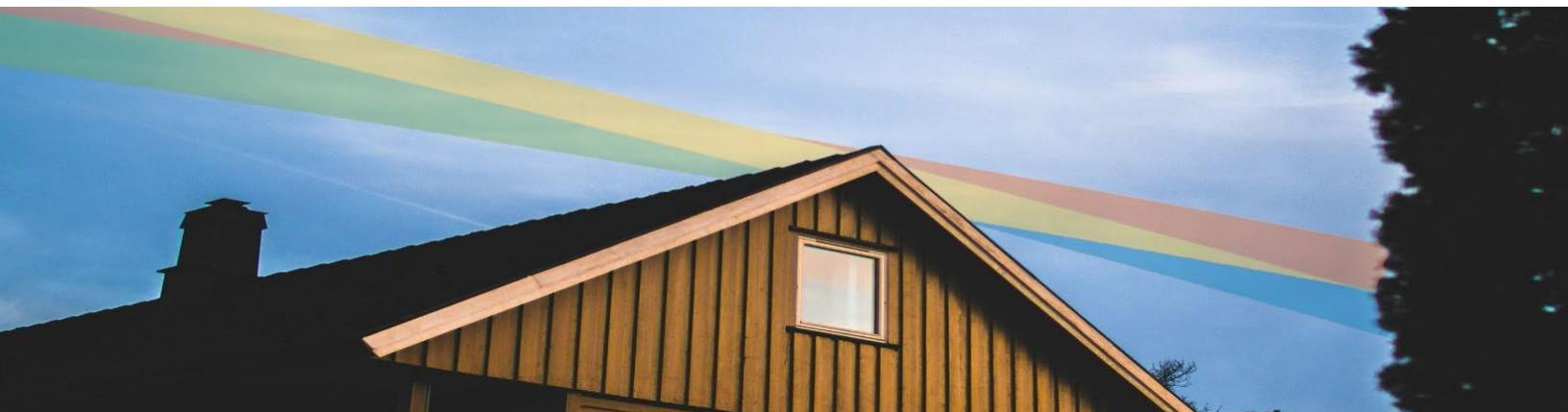
Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop communication lines between schools and social service agencies to get a better sense of needs and strategies to support this age group. Develop solutions for youth homelessness. Work with organizations to designate units for youth as they come available. Create clear agreements that outline explicit roles and responsibilities of private landlords who receive funding to provide specialized housing supports for youth. 	<p>The KDSB team supported Kenora Chiefs Advisory in the purchase of property for a Youth Crisis Stabilization Program.</p> <p>The KDSB sits on regional Youth Pillars of area Community Well-Being Committees to ensure that priorities are identified, and supports are created to meaningfully connect youth to their community.</p> <p>The KDSB provides financial support to area youth through a local funding commitment that supports children and youth accessing recreation programs and food security. Goals for these organizations are to establish strong connections to the community for youth.</p> <p>The KDSB sits on the planning table to develop a Youth Justice Centre with a focus on youth, that will operate in Kenora.</p> <p>Invested \$1.5 million in partnership with the Province to support Transitional Aged Youth in Kenora through community partners.</p>

Goal #9: Support existing detox and addiction programs and develop new ones to respond to geographic gaps

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing new programs in the high demand areas of Dryden and Sioux Lookout. Develop detox and treatment programs uniquely designed for the needs of people who use Methamphetamines. 	<p>The KDSB continued year two of a 2-year lease agreement for the Waterview Inn in Kenora. The 16 units are utilized for those who are vulnerable during the COVID-19 Pandemic and those who are experiencing homelessness. With Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Waterview was able to be utilized to mobilize their managed alcohol program, in order to meet tenants where they reside.</p> <p>The KDSB worked with Lake of the Woods District Hospital to develop a mobile Managed Alcohol Program that was piloted at the Waterview Inn, in Kenora.</p>

Goal #9: Support existing detox and addiction programs and develop new ones to respond to geographic gaps (continued)

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
	<p>The KDSB continues to explore options in supporting other communities with their goal to establish Managed Alcohol Programs.</p> <p>The KDSB contracted Gladstone Consulting and Sonderbloom to determine need for a Withdrawal Management, Treatment Centre, and Supportive Housing business case. The project goal is to develop a comprehensive system that will build community capacity and allow individuals to participate in society in a meaningful way in City of Dryden, Sioux Lookout and surrounding First Nation communities.</p> <p><i>*Drug addiction, specifically methamphetamines, has rapidly changed in the Kenora District and has become an acute risk for many communities. The impact and needs of people struggling with addiction is creating increased pressure on all emergency services.</i></p>



Goal #10: Establish specific housing and support programs for people exiting incarceration

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on partnering with an agency to provide a transition unit with support to someone exiting incarceration. • Explore new supports and partners. • Continue engagement at the Situation Table. • Work with other partners in all aspects of transitional housing needs. 	<p>The KDSB supports Ne-Chee Friendship Centre in its Bail Verification Program and Supportive Housing, and with COVID-19 Congregate safety measures.</p> <p>The KDSB actively participates in the Human Services and Justice Coordination Committee.</p> <p>The KDSB initiated planning with Kenora Chiefs Advisory and Canadian Mental Health Association-Kenora in the potential development in dedicated housing for those exiting incarceration.</p> <p>The KDSB amended housing policies and directives to support successful tenancy for those involved in the justice system. The KDSB communicated the additional housing policy and directive changes to the Crown, Police Services, and Service Delivery partners.</p> <p>The KDSB actively participated on community-based situation planning tables across the District.</p>

Goal #11: Prioritize supported housing and services for survivors of human trafficking

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on case-by-case responses and is engage in an ongoing discussion to establish practices and develop a housing model that would serve survivors of human trafficking. 	<p>The KDSB supported Service Delivery partners and First Nation communities in their applications for funding to support Human Trafficking awareness and prevention initiatives.</p> <p>On a case-by-case basis, the KDSB worked with Police Services, Victims Services, and Women's programs to support safety and relocation plans for victims of human trafficking.</p>

Goal #12: Address the specific housing needs of students

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KDSB aims to address the housing needs of students in the District by working in partnership with education organizations and First Nations communities to identify specific housing needs, and work to ensure that lack of housing is not a barrier to accessing high quality education. 	<p>Through funding provided by the Ministry of Education, the KDSB, in partnership with Windigo First Nation Tribal Council is developing Student and Family Housing in Sioux Lookout.</p> <p>The housing will allow for youth to come from Far North Communities to obtain education, each home will be supported by a host family in order to ensure a supportive environment that is conducive to success. Each host family will support 4 students.</p>

Goal #13: Continue working to meet the housing needs of older adults (age 60+)

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable older adults to remain in their homes by creating strong lines of communication and partnerships with agencies that provide home care services and supports for seniors through the Northwest Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and their 'Aging at Home' Strategy. Monitor waitlists for seniors' housing to ensure appropriate stock is available and that the waitlist is manageable. Develop protocols to ensure that older adults exiting the hospital who are eligible for social housing can be accommodated in appropriate housing solutions. Strengthen the lines of communication with agencies servicing the older population and consider new options for aging at home. 	<p>The KDSB established a process for modifications to support 'Aging at Home' strategies. This includes but is not limited to: replacement of tubs with walk-in showers, grab bars, senior-specific accessibility improvements and renovations.</p> <p>The KDSB participates on the Home Community Care group of the AI Nation Health Partners. The groups' objective is to review and assess supports available to seniors in their homes and identify gaps.</p> <p>The KDSB piloted its Community Paramedicine Program. KDSB's Northwest EMS Community Paramedicine Program focuses on proving in-home assessment and 9-1-1 avoidance. Working in collaboration with the individual's health care team, a Community Paramedic will assist in developing a care plan and act as a guide to the health care system.</p> <p>The KDSB established an agreement with Patricia Gardens to provide flexible tenancy options between senior housing buildings in Dryden based financial eligibility and specialized need.</p>

Priority No. 5: Increase Housing Supply

Goal #14: Increase community housing stock

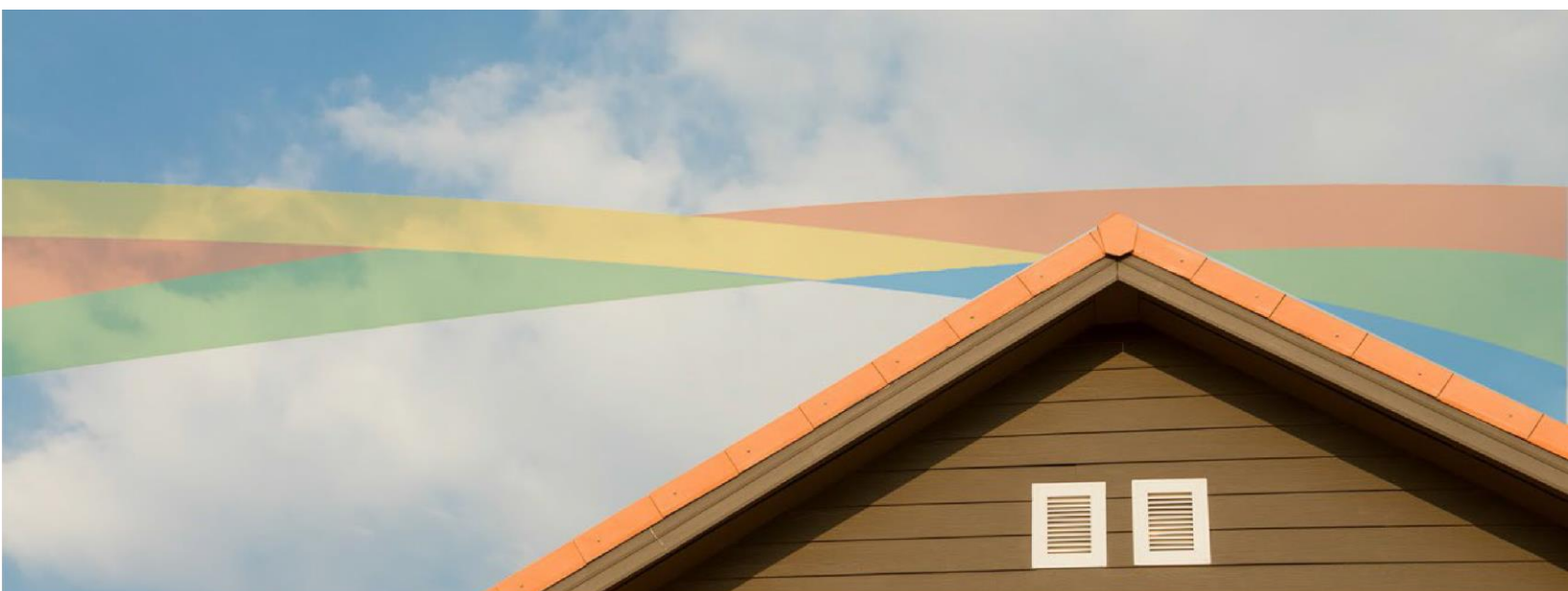
Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread community housing throughout a town or city, as opposed to locating all low-income housing in one area. 	<p>The KDSB had multiple delegations and meetings with Ministers and Ministry Staff to advocate for capital funding for the development of additional housing stock across the District of Kenora.</p> <p>New Developments in 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenora Kendall House: 9 Units Kenora Association for Community Living Accessible Housing Conversion: 4 Units Red Lake Norseman Inn acquisition: 22 units Red Lake New Starts for Women Inc. Second Stage Housing-Ten Sisters: 10 units Red Lake Area Emergency Shelter (<i>KDSB assumed temporary operation</i>): 2 units <p>The KDSB applied to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for funding to support new builds and infrastructure.</p> <p>The KDSB will be developing a 40-unit Seniors complex in Dryden in 2022, and planning preparation in 2020.</p> <p>The KDSB is planning the conversion of two 3-bedroom units to 7 units in Dryden on Orvis Street.</p>

Goal #15: Develop housing for the workforce to address barriers to economic development

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with municipalities and private developers to begin addressing housing as a limiting factor to economic development. 	<p>The KDSB has implemented a Regional Housing Strategy through Urban Systems. Developing the Regional Housing Strategy will consist of three main components: a Housing Needs Assessment; Housing Demand Study; and a Vacant Lands, Infrastructure, and Servicing analysis. Combined, these three parts will create a holistic understanding of housing needs, challenges, and opportunities in the District.</p>

Goal #16: Develop new housing geared to older adults

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create new housing facilities that are specifically geared to the needs of the aging population. Develop long-term care facilities in the District, which will further support the needs of older adults. 	<p>The KDSB will be developing a 40-unit Seniors complex in Dryden in 2022, and planning and preparation continued.</p> <p>The KDSB completed funding applications for the development 56-unit seniors housing complex in Kenora through Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation.</p> <p>The KDSB approved to double the rent supplement commitment from 5 to 10 units and assisted the Township of Ignace in commencing a new design build procurement process for housing development.</p> <p>The KDSB purchased the 'Norseman Inn' in Red Lake for future senior housing development and opportunity.</p>



Goal #17: Increase and optimize accessible units in new builds

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all new senior units are made accessible, and a portion of new builds for single non-elderly residents and families must also be built to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility devices. 	<p>In 2021, all new housing developments included assurance that accessibility and AODA requirements are met through the infrastructure plans.</p> <p>Where possible modifications were completed to support accessibility needs.</p> <p>KDSB plans to significantly increase the number of accessible units through new construction projects over the next 5 years. New stock being constructed under CMHC's National Housing Co-Investment Fund are generally built to achieve 31+% of new units to be built fully accessible. Housing developments being built outside of the NHCF meet or exceed the OBC standard, which normally requires 15% of units, as well as a mix of unit sizes (number of bedrooms).</p> <p>KDSB is also optimizing its existing stock whenever possible by creating partially modified units within its senior's housing stock to allow for increased accessibility features such as low curb showers and other age-at-home features. KDSB works to ensure that all Accommodation Requests received by its tenants are reasonably met and sets out to ensure that its housing stock meets a range of accessibility needs.</p>

Goal #18: Working with developers to create additional housing stock

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create new housing stock through partnerships with both current organizational partners, as well as private market companies. 	<p>Deferred due to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p>

Goal #19: Create more affordable housing (and ensure affordability of new rental buildings and units)

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the current RGI units as affordable housing, though potentially through a different financial model. Diversify costs to support affordable housing, creating opportunities for mixed-use between average market rent units and affordable units. 	<p>The development of a new financial model will be deferred to 2022.</p> <p>As of March 2021, the KDSB Board of Directors approved KDSB to prototype affordable housing transformation, mixed rents, and portfolio diversification. This includes establishing rents that are considered 'deep affordable', 'affordable', and 'market'.</p> <p>KDSB's proactive approach will mitigate the overall impacts on the housing continuum, transitioning units from Rent-Geared- to-Income to mixed market to meet community needs for housing. Additionally, it allows for flexibility with partner agreements that support successful tenancy.</p> <p>KDSB was able to leverage rent subsidies through partnerships with third party organizations to support housing affordability.</p>

Priority No. 6: Address Issues and Limitations of Existing Housing Stock

Goal #20: Repurpose existing stock to meet new needs

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to renovate existing buildings to make space for on-site services needed for supported housing. Work with Developmental Services to retrofit a duplex to create programming space and onsite supports on the main floor, and multiple single units on the upper floor. 	<p>The KDSB, in partnership with Kenora Association for Community Living, retrofitted 4 units from row housing stock, to create programming spaces and supports on-site, and converted multi-bedroom units to create 1-bedroom units and serve single, non-elderly tenants with specialized needs.</p> <p>The KDSB established a process for modifications to support 'Aging at Home' strategies. This includes but is not limited to: replacement of tubs with walk-in showers, grab bars, senior-specific accessibility improvements and renovations.</p>

Priority No. 7: Improve Information Sharing and Integrate Service Delivery

Goal #21: Coordinate our shelters with other systems to develop wrap-around supports

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing the work with the area emergency shelters to establish the first step in a housing continuum. Engage with emergency shelters and support them in connecting with service providers in healthcare, mental health and addictions, and transitional and supportive housing. Continue working with our partners to bring supports into our shelter systems. 	<p>The KDSB continues to work with District Emergency Shelters to establish the first step in the housing continuum.</p> <p>Significant planning was required for the purpose of developing isolation protocols and areas during COVID-19 in congregate settings.</p> <p>The KDSB worked with multiple service delivery partners to support connections within emergency shelters to have access to primary care, mental health and addition programs, cultural programs, financial security, and the completion of housing applications. Examples of on-site service include: Ontario Works supports and ODSP supports within the shelter.</p>

Goal #22: Implement the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System 4.0 (HIFIS)

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a software called HIFIS 4.0. Ensure that staff has the most accurate information regarding vacancies over each month, quarter, and year. 	<p>The Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) is a web-enabled Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) that can provide communities with the information they need to further their efforts with addressing homelessness. It allows multiple service providers from the same geographic area to implement coordinated access using real-time information about people experiencing homelessness and the resources they need to find and maintain housing.</p> <p>Access to HIFIS was deferred until 2022, as per direction of the Federal Government.</p>

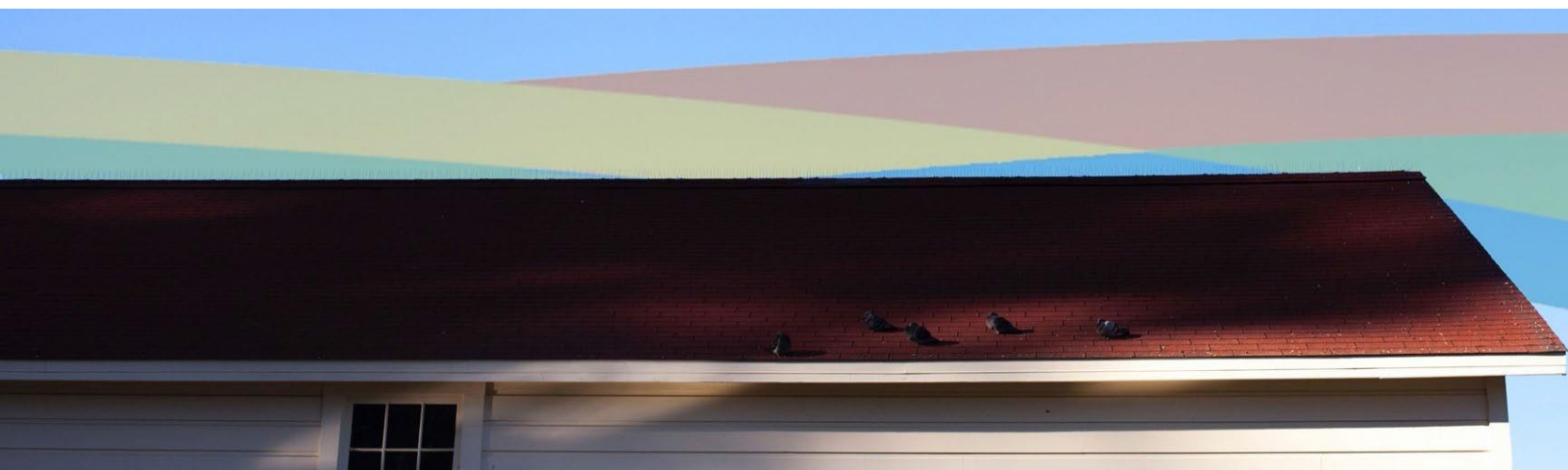
Goal #23: Work with partners to ensure implementation of consistent and efficient practices and streamline waitlists

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with applicable partners to streamline current housing waitlist processes and ensure consistent practices are used by all organizations providing housing. • Work with other housing managers to ensure that waitlist procedures are applied consistently across the District. • Further support consistent policies across housing partners, through developing an Emergency Preparedness Standard. • Create standardized processes for continuity in institutional practices as staff turn-over within the many service-provider agencies. • Conduct an annual review with non-profit property managers, as well as an annual review of processes with partners who refer applicants. 	<p>The KDSB developed a standard and consistent practice to ensure selection from the waitlist was equitable, fair, and transparent.</p> <p>A quality assurance review was completed to ensure that housing managers were following the same and consistent process.</p> <p>The KDSB amended local directives to include a homelessness priority to be incorporated into the unit offering rotation.</p> <p>The KDSB developed a process for regular communication and meetings with non-profit housing providers to ensure funding sustainability, continuity of intended units, and quality of service.</p> <p>Due to the impacts of COVID-19, and higher than normal staff turnover rates, the KDSB continues to work towards improving standardized processes for continuity.</p> <p>The KDSB conducts annual reviews of the non-profit property managers that still exist in the region; however, the KDSB has assumed many of the non-profit housing assets and operations.</p>

Priority No. 8: Enhance Partnerships and Engagement with Senior Governments

Goal #24: Sustain advocacy with senior governments

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage with the provincial government and capitalize on opportunities that align with local goals. 	<p>Delegations demonstrated that all Ministries could achieve better outcomes through purpose-built housing and housing with appropriate wraparound support services.</p> <p>KDSB works with Municipalities, First Nations and Stakeholders to identify the unique housing needs and the impact of housing on the determinants of health and community safety planning.</p> <p>Greater achievements are possible when KDSB is able to effectively work with all levels of Government, Municipal, Provincial and Federal in partnership with First Nations and Stakeholders in order to clearly define the assessed housing requirements of the District and continue to address increased changing needs.</p> <p>The KDSB applied for and was selected to become a Reaching Home Designated Community under the Government of Canada. Reaching Home is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness. The KDSB acts as Community Entity.</p>



Goal #25: Collaborate across government jurisdictions to address factors creating barriers for community members

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Indigenous housing agencies to pool resources and increase opportunities for additional affordable housing initiatives. • Lobby the provincial government to review/amend legislation that is counter-intuitive to Indigenous ways of being. • Provide documentation and data to the Northern Ontario Municipal Association to advocate for a streamlined transportation strategy in Northern Ontario. • Ensure that senior levels of governments understand the intricacies of how their decisions intersect with and impact other programs. 	<p>The KDSB continues to work with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services to partner in the development of a 30-unit supportive housing complex in Kenora. This initiative was spurred by the success of the same partnership in the creation of a 20-unit supportive housing complex in Sioux Lookout in 2019.</p> <p>Through many levels of government, the KDSB, in partnership with Windigo First Nation Tribal Council is developing Student and Family Housing in Sioux Lookout. The housing will allow for youth to come from Far North Communities to obtain education, each home will be supported by a host family in order to ensure a supportive environment that is conducive to success.</p> <p>The KDSB has completed documentation and data to the Northern Ontario Municipal Association to advocate for a streamlined transportation strategy in Northern Ontario. As a result, Ontario Northland and Kasper bus lines are operational in the District of Kenora.</p> <p>The Chief Administrative Officer and Board of Directors participate in Provincial and Federal minister delegations to advocate for the housing needs of the District.</p>

Goal #26: Develop a reflexive metric for self-evaluation and community (external) evaluation

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a framework and associated tools to review initiatives and communicate the successes, failures, and lessons learned through its work. 	<p>The KDSB has not yet implemented a standard framework as a reflexive metric for self-evaluation. This item has been deferred to 2022.</p> <p>The Chief Administrative Officer provides annual presentations on all KDSB programs to Mayors and Councils of the 9 Municipalities. Housing updates and planning overviews are vital components to the presentations.</p> <p>The Director of Finance completes all financial and statistical data reporting to the respective Ministries.</p> <p>Data is reviewed quarterly to determine if programs are aligned with desired outcomes. Programs are adjusted when flexibility is permitted in order to maximize utilization.</p> <p>The Directors of Infrastructure and Integrated Social Services develop all planning and implementation plans supported by the respective departments.</p> <p>Service Plans and Reports are produced annually to highlight achievements and reflect and plan for outstanding needs.</p> <p>Following approval from the Board of Directors, all plans are made public and shared on the KDSB website: www.kdsb.on.ca</p> <p>The Communications Officer develops press releases on an ongoing basis to highlight program development and keep the media and communities informed of progress.</p> <p>Program Directors update the Board quarterly on program challenges and successes.</p> <p>KDSB shares data and system information with other stakeholders in order to support community and district initiatives. As well as evaluating system changes and its impact on improved outcomes.</p>

Goal #27: Embed the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan in other relevant community plans

Objectives	2021 Progress Achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage municipalities and other governments to reflect this plan in their own planning documents. 	<p>The 10 year Housing and Homelessness plan will be integrated into the KDSB's new strategic plan.</p> <p>Housing and Homelessness is an identified priority in all community safety and well-being plans, which are established by all District Municipalities.</p> <p>The 10 year Housing and Homelessness plan will be integrated into its Reaching Home plan and Housing Reform plan.</p>

On the Horizon:

Red Lake:

- The KDSB will create senior housing units, through its acquisition of the 'Norseman Inn'.
- In Red Lake, the community has had periods of 'functioning zero' in its homeless population. This means that in the community, to be operating at functioning zero, there must be 3 or less individuals accessing emergency shelter services.

Sioux Lookout:

- The KDSB continues to work with First Step Women's Shelter for the development of second stage housing.
- The KDSB, in partnership with Windigo First Nations Tribal Council, student and family housing is under construction.
- The KDSB continues to work with partners on long-term, sustainable emergency shelter operations.
- Partnership with Seven Generations Education Institute to develop a housing and education campus.

Ignace:

The KDSB, is supporting the Township of Ignace in the development of an RFP in the development of a 10-unit seniors complex, as well as the townships funding application through Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation.

Ear Falls:

- Support the repurposing of vacant housing stock to support specialized housing for health care professionals.
- Mixed market seniors housing (2026).

Dryden:

- The KDSB is developing a 40-unit Seniors Housing Complex.
- The KDSB will work with Dryden Regional Health Centre for a supportive housing program, through the conversion of Orvis Street units.
- KDSB will work with community stakeholders for the development of Emergency Shelter solutions.

Kenora:

- The KDSB, in partnership with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, will be creating a 30-unit Supportive Housing Complex.
- The KDSB will be developing a 54-unit Seniors Housing Complex.
- Support the Canadian Mental Health Association – Kenora Branch for emergency shelter operations in Kenora.
- Second Stage Housing- Saakaate House
- Housing and Education Campus with Seven Generations Education Institute – 20 affordable housing unit donations
- 16 affordable housing units- private development downtown

Machin:

- KDSB, in partnership with the Municipality of Machin, will be working to create additional Seniors Housing.
- KDSB will execute a feasibility study regarding the need for an EMS base in Machin.

In the Kenora District, the KDSB will:

- The KDSB will continue development of a Regional Housing Strategy (RHS). The goal of the RHS is to ensure that everyone who lives in the District — from youth to older adults and seniors, singles to larger families, people experiencing homelessness to people with middle - to upper-incomes, from temporary workers to seasonal and full-time residents, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, and ability — is able to have access to safe, good quality, affordable housing that addresses their changing needs throughout their lives. The project will include a full strategy, implementation, and monitoring plan and, the establishment of an Industry Council to champion the strategies actions.

- Continue to expand agreements to support chronically homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless through the Homes for Good Program with multiple service delivery partners across the District and continually review that the program is supporting the individuals outlined in the Homes for Good Proposal.
- Utilize the data from enumeration studies to plan for alternative housing programs that meet the needs of the homeless, at-risk of homeless and vulnerable in our District.
- Work towards developing safe housing solutions for Indigenous students accessing Secondary School in Kenora District Municipalities; improved housing solutions for pre and post-natal supports and; developing supports for individuals transitioning through the justice system.
- Play an active role in the advocacy and needs of individuals caught in cycles of human trafficking, incarceration, and gang involvement.
- Further strengthen relationships and work with First Nations, specifically Grand Council Treaty Three and Nishnawbe Aski Nation, in efforts to work together to establish Memorandums of Understanding and commitments to work together on housing assessments and developments to better support Indigenous People.
- Continuation of a Community Paramedicine Program that can support improved health outcomes and linkages to other health care services through partnerships with housing services developments.



Our Promise: Help and Support when you need it.

2021 marks the eighth year of the KDSB's 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, and the implementation of our plans update. Over the next two years, the KDSB will continue to work on strengthening its partnerships with communities and service delivery partners to leverage resources to develop a housing and homelessness system in the Kenora District that will strive to meet the needs of our communities.

This Progress Report has highlighted the progress that was made in 2021 for the seven priorities set out in the plan. This report is the KDSB's seventh progress report and represents the work undertaken towards quantifying and understanding the impact that the plan has on the people in the Kenora District.

To our community partners, stakeholders and communities, this report is intended to be a renewed annual baseline upon which the KDSB will continue to build. The plan was developed through the planning and experience of many contributors and stakeholders: community agencies and partners, elected officials, advocates and community members throughout the Kenora District. The desire for the KDSB is to continue those conversations through this and future Progress Reports.

The Kenora District Services Board

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**For the full Housing and Homelessness Plan and reports
visit the KDSB's website: www.kdsb.on.ca**