



2012 City of Toronto Budget: Analysis
Cuts to affordable housing

Issue:

- City of Toronto 2012 *Budget*¹ proposes cuts to Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA), including² the following recommendations³:
 - Reduction in the Shelter, Support and Housing department budget by 15%, with the biggest percentage cut (45%) in the affordable housing program
 - Reduction in spending by the Affordable Housing Office by 10.6% leading to a decrease in new affordable housing development (1,502 homes this year to 300 new homes by 2014)
 - Reduction in funding to repair rundown housing (from 1,034 homes repaired this year to 400 by 2013)
 - Numerous cuts to social housing funding, including an \$88.5 million cut for social housing providers and a \$6 million cut to Toronto Community Housing
 - A \$10 million cut to the Toronto Community Housing Corporation

Facts:

- Inadequate housing can result in numerous negative health outcomes, ranging from respiratory infections and asthma due to moulds and poor ventilation, to mental health impacts associated with overcrowding⁴
- Adequate housing is linked to healthy child development since stable, affordable housing contributes to school success, community connections, and healthier neighbourhoods⁵
- The risk of severe health issues or disability increases up to 25% in poor housing⁶

Analysis:

- Those who will be primarily impacted are people who are homeless or poorly-housed, those in precarious and low paid work, poor and economically vulnerable people, recent immigrants, people with disability, and racialized populations⁷
- The poorest neighbourhoods will have less access to affordable housing, leading to even poorer health than already exists in these neighbourhoods without affordable housing, vulnerable populations will remain homeless, sacrifice essential items to pay for housing, and/or live in substandard and health-damaging accommodation
- Only 282 of a housing waiting list of over 80,000 were housed in October 2011, which means that 24 years would be required to house the current waiting list⁸. Cuts to affordable housing will make the wait even longer.
- More than 640,000 Torontonians need some form of assistance to meet their housing needs. In Toronto, 200,000 renter households pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing, which puts their housing in the unaffordable category⁹

HPAP calls on Toronto City Council to make the healthy choice and stop the cuts to vital community programs.

¹ City of Toronto (2011). *Staff Recommended Tax Supported Operating Budget*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-42560.pdf>

² City of Toronto (2011). *Shelter, Support and Housing: Operating Budget Analyst Notes*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-42614.pdf>

³ Wellesley Institute (2011). *Wellesley Institute's Deputation on the 2012 Toronto Budget*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/blog/wellesley-institutes-deputation-on-the-2012-toronto-budget/>

⁴ Public Health Agency of Canada (2008) *The Chief Public Health Officer's Report on the State of Public Health in Canada 2008: Environment and Housing*. Retrieved from: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cphorsphc-respcacsp/2008/fr-rc/cphorsphc-respcacsp07d-eng.php>

⁵ Wellesley Institute (2011). *Wellesley Institute's Deputation on the 2012 Toronto Budget*.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Wellesley Institute (2011). *The Real Cost of City Cuts*. Retrieved from:
<http://www.wellesleyinstitute.com/publication.../the-real-cost-of-city-cuts/>

⁸ Wellesley Institute (2011). *Wellesley Institute's Deputation on the 2012 Toronto Budget*.

⁹ Wellesley Institute (2011). *The Real Cost of City Cuts*.