

# WELCOME

## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Children's Services - Social Assistance  
Housing Services - KLH Housing Corporation



**Social Services Service Plan 2024 - 2028**  
Kawartha Lakes Human Services Department

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# Section 1 – Community Analysis

## 1.1 Key Caseload Demographics

### 1.1 Key Caseload Demographics – 2023 Caseload Analysis

- Total caseload numbers have increased by 2% over 2022 totals and are up 6.1% from 2021
  - The County of Haliburton caseload is growing at a higher rate than the City of Kawartha Lakes caseload, 5% and 1% respectively.
  - Caseload numbers are 6% lower than pre-pandemic levels in 2019
- Caseload composition has remained consistent year over year (2022 to 2023) and is predominantly trending with:
  - Singles at 65.5%;
  - Sole support parents at 25.5%;
  - Couples with dependents at 5.4%; and
  - Couples at 3.7%.
- Looking at time on assistance:
  - Couples continue to remain on assistance the longest with an average of 9.2 years;
  - Couples with dependents remain on for 7.3 years;
  - Singles for 3.4 years; and
  - Sole support parents for 4.0 years.
- Female participants, the average number of years on assistance increases as their age increases.
- Since the pandemic (2020), there has been a drastic increase in the average number of months on assistance. Couples and couples with dependents have the highest increase with average months on assistance.
  - Looking back, time on assistance for couples has more than doubled since 2017 from 49 months (4.08 years) to 112 months (9.33 years) in 2023
- From an age and gender perspective:
  - Over half of all participants are under the age of 40.
  - The highest number of participants are in the 30-34 range.
  - This is the same for both males and females.
  - The second highest age group for male participants is 18 to 24.99 year olds.
  - 45.2% of female participants are single and 43% are sole supports.
  - 86.8% of male participants are single with sole supports next at 7.0%
- Caseload Projection for 2024: Based on the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) demographic predictions and analysis, the total caseload is expected to increase by 10.7%, reaching 1,499 cases which is close to pre-pandemic numbers.
- Approximately 20 refugees were sponsored to settle in Kawartha Lakes in 2023. This number doesn't seem significant, yet prior to 2022 there were no refugees sponsored in our service manager areas.

- Intake Numbers:
  - 10% of intake requests for services were for Emergency Assistance
  - Our Application Stream completed an average of 193 applications for assistance each month in 2023.
  - 33 auto grant files are received each month.
  - On average, 47 files each month are transferred from Income and Benefits Administration Unit (IBAU). These files require immediate review and adjustments that effect client eligibility.

## 1.2 Service Needs

- Staffing: Caseload Numbers: Human Service Analysis indicates Client Services Worker (CSW) caseloads should be 50 and 60. Currently, caseload numbers per CSW providing ongoing service is between 90 – 105,
- Administrative Burden of Intake: Four full-time CSW's process Emergency Assistance, immediate file transfers from IBAU, those through Risk Based Eligibility Determination (RBED), and walk-ins.
- Stability Support Requests:
  - 30% of requests for services for stability support (SS) were from low income and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) households, 70% of requests from those in receipt of Ontario Works
  - 85% of SS requests were related to housing stability, leaving little funds to address other needs in order to progress toward being employment ready
- Lack of Child Care Spaces for Families:
  - There is a 6.4 year wait for licensed centre or home based child care, adding additional barriers for sole support parent, of which impact over 25% of our caseload.
- Increasing Costs for Housing:
  - The average cost to rent a room only in our service area has increased by over \$220 per month to \$757.50, which is \$24.50 more per month than the monthly OW amount (\$733.00) for a single person.
  - The average cost of a one-bedroom apartment is \$1681.50 per month.
- Referrals to Employment Ontario:
  - Referral numbers to the Service System Manager (SSM) remain consistent to other SSM Consolidated Municipal Service Manager's (CMSMs) at 23% of total caseload.
  - There is an increase in the return rate to OW in 2023 and returns have been consistently over the average return rate of 25%.
- Stability Support Needs by Priority in Action Plans:
  - Of the total caseload, 100% of participants identified housing stability and food security as a critical need;
  - 96% of the caseload identifying that their physical and mental health issues are a barrier to stabilizing their life or to even imagine holding down a job;

- Transportation and lack there of at 55%;
- Learning and intellectual needs at 38%;
- Education at 34%;
- Addictions and substance use at 18%; and
- Caregiving at 10%.
- Those Employed:
  - Of our employed workers on OW, 46.2% travelled outside of Kawartha Lakes and 47.7 travel 30 minutes or more from home to work.
  - In our most urban region there is one source of public transportation within the boundaries of Lindsay.
  - The majority of communities do not have access to taxi services, let alone the ability to pay for the high costs of these services.
  - Due to the rurality of the service area, nearly 95% of commuters rely on a personal vehicle to get to work.
- Labour Force:
  - In 2021 there were 32.5 people entering the labour force for 100 leaving the labour force, compared to the province with 51 workers entering.
  - The labour participation rate was an average of was 50.7% locally and 62.8% provincially.
  - 37% of all employment postings in the service area required no formal education or a minimum of a grade 12 education.
- All of the factors outlined in the Service Needs section constrict and threaten the ability to achieve the Service Performance targets set by MCCSS. The ability to meet performance expectations is dependent on factors outside of the municipalities control, such as the rate of inflation, the economic climate and timely access to stability supports offered through other services like mental health and health care programs.

## 1.3 Community Needs Assessment

The full Community Needs Assessment is attached as Appendix A. Highlights of the Community Needs Assessment are detailed in Table One below:

Table One: Community Needs Assessment

Community Needs Assessment
<b>Strengths:</b>
1.3.1 There are currently five programs to support employment success
1.3.2 There are currently eight programs and services to support financial education and offer support
1.3.3 Communities support Food Security Programs
1.3.4 There are five harm reduction programs and services available in our community

1.3.5 There are 22 programs and services to support health, mental health and well-being across the service area

1.3.6 There are a number of programs and services to support children and adults with special needs

### **Gaps:**

1.3.1 The programs are available in four larger communities

1.3.2 Programs are not well known in the community

1.3.3 Programs are not available in all communities, access is limited to number of visits

1.3.4 Programs are available in larger communities, limited availability of programs and services

1.3.5 Services are not available in all communities, not all programs and services are well known

1.3.6 Programs and services are primarily in four larger communities

### **Challenges:**

1.3.1 Funding is limited in program to sufficiently meet the need; verification is required for each expense increasing the burden on people served, there are waitlists for some of the services

1.3.2 Programs support education but do not have sufficient funding to fully meet needs, there are waitlists for services

1.3.3 Programs are not funded, need is high and is continuing to grow

1.3.4 Programs have limited funding, need is high

1.3.5 Waitlist for services are extensive, access to programs and services may be limited

1.3.6 Funding in programs is insufficient to meet the need, need is high and continuing to grow

### **Opportunities**

1.3.1 Programs may be delivered in smaller communities and our community housing programs, opportunity to community caseload demographics to meet needs of SA recipients

1.3.2 Support financial viability, support education to make most of restricted budget, crisis support is available

1.3.4 Great partnerships with most service providers, work is completed collaboratively, work together to meet the need

1.3.5 Services are available for all ages, opportunity to learn more about services available

1.3.6 Opportunity to learn more about programs and services available

## **Section 2 - Performance Outcome Targets**

The Ministry assigned performance targets for 2024. Table Two below includes a brief description of each performance outcome, the 2024 targets, 2023 actuals and a brief note on expected performance for 2024. In each performance area, the provincial expectations are that we not only

exceed our previous years' performance, but that we also perform above/below the provincial average.

Table Two: Performance Outcomes

Performance Outcomes	Provincially Assigned Target	2023 Actuals	Notes
Ontario Works adults and ODSP non-disabled adults with participation requirements have an Action Plan	100%	89.1%	Consistent performance year over year – Provincial average 76.7%
Ontario Works adults and ODSP non-disable adults with participation requirements are referred to Employment Ontario (EO)	43%	22.2%	Our 2023 actuals are lower than 2022 values - Provincial Average 19.8%
Ontario Works cases exit to employment	10%	8.5%	Consistent performance year over year - Provincial average 8.1%
Cases that exit Ontario Works do not return to the program within one year	20%	39.1%	Increase of 4.4% over 2022 Provincial average 33.8%



## Section 3 – Service Strategies

### 3.1 Risk Assessment

An analysis of the risks in meeting the provincial performance outcomes was completed based on the specific questions and information provided by the province. Additional risk levels and descriptions were included to both inform and support the development of service strategies. The provincial risk assessment is attached as Appendix B.

Table Three: Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment	
Performance Outcome:	
1.0	Ontario Works adults and ODSP non-disabled adults with participation requirements have an Action Plan (AP)
2.0	Ontario Works adults and ODSP non-disabled adult with participation requirements are referred to Employment Ontario (EO)
Risk Level and Description:	
1.0.0	High – Expectation to have 100% of all OW adults and NDA's with an Action Plan
2.0.0	Medium - Participant's barriers/needs have not been addressed prior to referral to Employment Ontario
	Participants may agree to Action Plan goals and activities in order to maintain eligibility for assistance
	Review and participant assessments require time to build relationships and learn about needs
	Gaps in Community Resources and supports available and accessed
	Increase in return rates from EO due to lack of contact
	SSM process and requirements to approve and issue support to benefits puts those most vulnerable at risk
Description of Controls in Place:	
1.0.1	The first meeting with people we serve can be 1.5 to 2.0 hours in length and includes significant time to fulfill mandatory eligibility requirements (review and analysis of eligibility requirements, completion of Common Assessment - CA). If the needs of the person are known and immediate during the first meeting, staff will complete AP and do so in 89.1% of all cases. Staff will address immediate needs of the person and will schedule a follow up appointment within 30 days to complete the full CA and complete an AP if one is not



completed in the first visit. This provides the opportunity for staff to better develop the relationship and best determine the supports and services that could be made available.

- 2.0.1 Staff connect with EO in advance of any referral that may be considered multi-barriered and if the person has barriers that make contact difficult, especially if the person is highly motivated to connect with EO. Each person is one crisis/event away from connecting and making continued participation difficult. A process has been established to have EO connect with our staff if they have been unable to connect. Monthly meetings with EO have been established to address any service issues, concerns including reducing the returned referral percentage. Monthly meetings have been established with SSM to support system level issues, concerns and successes. EO staff in Haliburton are located in the same building to facilitate partnerships. EO partner in Lindsay attends our building monthly to meet with staff to support connections and services

### Opportunities:

2.01 SSM and CMSM are looking to develop a shared calendar that will allow staff delivering OW to set up appointments with the EO in real time. Improvements to EO provider connecting with our CSW's for no contact will be addressed by EO. It is expected that CMSM staff capacity stability will be increased in 2024 providing for a more manageable caseload and provide more time for staff to work with and support participants. In 2023, CMSM received one-time funding to support non-crisis related counselling to meet the needs of those in receipt of OW. This program has proven successful and will be continued in 2024.

## 3.2 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

- Locally the City has an established Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Belonging (IDEA) team, of which Human Services Department staff are members of and have opportunities to be consulted and provide feedback on initiatives that support the corporation and the community we serve
- City policies and procedures have been reviewed, including references to language and use of legacy language in order to update and align with the local strategy and approach.
- Monthly knowledge sharing and information on a variety of topics related to IDEA are available to staff and management
- Translation services are shared corporately to support serving people with English as a second language in a better manner
- Partnership with the City's Economic Development Department, Employment Ontario Provider and the New Canadians Centre located in Peterborough have enabled the improvement and service offerings locally within our community
- Staff knowledge and awareness is garnered through staff training and education programs and resources

### 3.3 Logic Model

Performance Outcome 1: % of OW adult caseload with an Action Plan created		
Inputs	Operational and Strategic Activities	Expected Outputs
Invest in Staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff capacity and pressures address to support service to people we serve.</li> <li>2. Temporary and full-time vacancies to be filled</li> <li>3. Succession planning to be updated in 2024</li> <li>4. Training in 2024 offered will include trauma informed care, Bridges Out of Poverty and Building Your Bounce</li> <li>5. Staff Demand to be updated to staffing levels required to meet desired performance expectations</li> </ol>	<p>Staff will have sufficient time to support appropriate and timely case management</p> <p>Participants understand their expectation to participate once referred to EO</p> <p>Long term planning to support capacity completed</p>
Direction and Policies and Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expectation to complete Action Plans at first visit, in first month, will be supported. If needs of participant are great, staff may complete an initial high level an Action Plan and will complete and update AP at next appointment</li> <li>2. This direction will be communicated at CSW Team Meetings</li> <li>3. The Program Integrity Team will develop an AP resource will be developed and shared with staff</li> <li>4. Management will update procedures and staff will be informed of requirement to complete initial high level AP at first meeting</li> </ol>	<p>Staff will have sufficient resources and clear direction to support case management and help to meet performance expectations</p> <p>Participants understand their expectation to participate once referred to EO</p>
Participant understanding of program expectations, AP requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tools and resources to assist with key messaging and ensure language used is at grade 4 level will be updated/developed</li> <li>2. SAIL training will be offered to those in receipt of OW by end of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter</li> </ol>	<p>Staff will have sufficient resources available to support participant understanding of AP requirements</p> <p>Participants understand their expectation to participate once referred to EO</p>
<b>Highest Risk from Risk Assessment Template</b> Risk 1: Low – SA staff and participants are not aligned with the goals/support services that will support the participant towards employment readiness		

Performance Outcome 2: Percentage of Ontario Works adults and ODSP non-disabled adults with participation requirements who are referred to EO		
Inputs	Operational and Strategic Activities	Expected Outputs
Partnership with SSM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with SSM on development of Shared Calendar</li> <li>2. Review additional day for EO staff to work/connect on site</li> <li>3. Continued monthly sessions with management team</li> <li>4. Monthly opportunity to connect with EO staff, alternating sites</li> <li>5. EO and CMSM to review and connect about referral process – ensure practice matches with referrals</li> <li>6. CMSM to schedule community meeting to present environmental scan and factors that inform our service – by end of 2024</li> <li>7. Working group established in 2024 to review and address health and safety and its connections to the provision of service</li> <li>8. Participant Pathway to be reviewed and updated in 2024 and into 2025</li> </ol>	<p>Staff will have ability to schedule appointments in real time, reducing returned referrals</p> <p>Increased community engagement and relationships</p> <p>Increased knowledge of services and supports between both EO and CMSM</p> <p>Refined referral process to better align services</p>
Direction and Policies and Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expectation to complete Action Plans at first visit, in first month, will be supported. If needs of Participant are great, staff may complete an initial high level an Action Plan and will complete and update AP at next appointment</li> <li>2. This direction will be communicated at CSW Team Meetings</li> <li>3. The Program Integrity Team will develop an AP resource will be developed and shared with staff</li> <li>4. Management will update procedures and staff will be informed of requirement to complete initial high level AP at first meeting</li> </ol>	<p>Staff will have sufficient time to support appropriate and timely case management</p> <p>Participants understand their expectation to participate once referred to EO</p>
Participant understanding of program expectations, AP requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tools and resources to assist with key messaging and ensure language used is at grade 4 level will be updated/developed</li> </ol>	<p>Staff will have sufficient time to support appropriate and timely case management</p>

## Performance Outcome 2: Percentage of Ontario Works adults and ODSP non-disabled adults with participation requirements who are referred to EO

Inputs	Operational and Strategic Activities	Expected Outputs
	2. SAIL training will be offered to those in receipt of OW by end of 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	Participants understand their expectation to participate once referred to EO

### Highest Risk from Risk Assessment Template

Risk 1: Medium - Participant's barriers/needs have not been addressed prior to referral to Employment Ontario

## Performance Outcome 3: Percentage of Ontario Works exiting to employment

Inputs	Operational and Strategic Activities	Expected Outputs
Partnership with SSM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with SSM and sharing data on the caseload demographics to develop programs that best support people in receipt of OW</li> <li>2. Review and partner with Workforce Development Board – sharing of data and information, reviewing their quarterly newsletter and reports</li> <li>3. Continued connections with our Economic Development Department for partnering opportunities and information sharing</li> <li>4. Support, inform staff of employment related opportunities through our EO partners</li> <li>5. Child Care support for those in receipt of Ontario Works continues to be a priority with our Children's Services Department</li> <li>6. Continue to lead the Data Consortium to share information with the community at large</li> <li>7. CMSM to schedule community meeting to present environmental scan and factors that inform our service – by end of 2024</li> <li>8. Participant Pathway to be reviewed and updated in 2024 and into 2025</li> </ol>	<p>Staff will have the information, training and connection with our EO partners</p> <p>Increased community engagement and relationships</p> <p>Increased knowledge of services and supports between both EO and CMSM</p> <p>Awareness of the available of child care support for employment</p> <p>Determination of ability and capacity to investigate and support appropriate employment opportunities</p>

Performance Outcome 3: Percentage of Ontario Works exiting to employment		
Inputs	Operational and Strategic Activities	Expected Outputs
	9. Working with SSM and EO's on appropriate referrals	
Direction and Policies and Procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review existing policies and procedures to ensure they continue to support overall OW mandate</li> <li>2. Continue to support the partnership with EO providers on meeting immediate needs of participants to support movement to employment</li> <li>3. The Program Integrity Team will complete an audit to ensure correct application and interpretation of policies and procedures</li> <li>4. Clear direction and intent will be provided to staff to continue to identify goals and barriers to employment and make the appropriate community connections and referrals to support forward movement</li> </ol>	Staff will have clear direction and support
Participant understanding of benefits of employment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updating of job aids and tools and benefits of employment resources available for participants ensuring that information is at appropriate reading level</li> <li>2. Re-establishment of the Social Service Community Council – the completion of a survey with people for consultation on best supports for exit to employment – complete and gather information and share with appropriate groups including the appropriate ministries</li> </ol>	Participants understand their expectation and benefits from participating with the EO and moving forward with employment – understand the financial benefits including EHB
<b>Highest Risk from Risk Assessment Template</b>		

Performance Outcome 4: Percentage of Ontario Works cases that do not return to Ontario Works Program Within one year		
Inputs	Operational and Strategic Activities	Expected Outputs
Partnership with SSM and Community Partners	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure any referrals to SSM are made when participant is ready for that step</li> </ol>	Staff will have ability to schedule appointments in

Performance Outcome 4: Percentage of Ontario Works cases that do not return to Ontario Works Program Within one year		
Inputs	Operational and Strategic Activities	Expected Outputs
	2. Continued connections with Economic Development Department – working with them to be aware of employment opportunities, what employers are saying about top skills	real time, reducing returned referrals  Refined referral process to better align services
Direction and Policies and Procedures	1. Keeping up to date with environmental scan and understanding of the employment opportunities available 2. Supporting clients with financial planning for the next crisis – financial budgeting that can be achieved understanding the likelihood of working at minimum wage 3. Being realistic about the likelihood of returning to OW, supporting through potential educational opportunities to support longer term financial viability whenever likely to be successful	Information and direction will be clear about expectations and directions  Financial tools will be available to support and educate participants  Advocacy for appropriate supports and programs needed to effectively support and maintain exits to employment
Participant understanding of program expectations, AP requirements	1. Re-establishment of the Social Service Community Council – the completion of a survey with people who have exited to employment – connecting with them in six and nine months to support success 2. SAIL training will be offered to those in receipt of OW by end of 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	Staff will have sufficient time to support appropriate and timely case management  Participants understand their expectation to participate once referred to EO
<b>Highest Risk from Risk Assessment Template</b> Risk 1: Medium - Participant's barriers/needs have not been addressed prior to referral to Employment Ontario		

## Section 4 – Program Delivery

### 4.1 Service Delivery Expectations

#### Overall Readiness

Resources are dedicated to ensure programs and services are delivered in accordance to legislative and policy requirements including:

- Program and Service Audits are completed including annual full file reviews and topic specific reviews (i.e. review of assignments of benefits, evidence verification, etc.) on a monthly basis
- Financial re-assessments are scheduled and completed every 24 months on all cases which included full reviews and all required third-party checks
- Third Party Checks are completed as required
- Checklists and Job Aids have been developed and available for all staff for a number of activities including: intake and application, third party checks, file transfers, file transfers to ODSP. Checklists are reviewed and completed by CSW's
- All deferrals from participation in an action plan are reviewed as the expectation is to have over 95% participants with action plans
- Requirements for participation is expected in all cases except where the CSW has determined that participation may be deferred. The expectation is for the AP to meet the participant where they are and therefore it is expected that an AP can be created to support the participant. If a deferral is granted, the details on the follow up will be included in the notes detailing reason for the deferral and providing milestones that will support the removal of the deferral and will include a date for follow up. The CSW will continue to work with the participant to support their ability to participate and offer resources and supports.
- Expectation that 100% of all Eligibility Verification Process cases are assigned within 15 days and 90% of their cases are completed within 60 days. We have had staff capacity issues in 2023 that have affected our ability to meet our performance expectations. This will be addressed in 2024.
- Eligibility Verification Process is currently assigned to a single staff member. This process is under review in 2024 as the vacancy for this work created pressures and issues in 2023 and 2024. Management is working with the Program Integrity team to provide training and will re-distribute the responsibility for EVP to all CSW's which will ensure coverage to meet our performance expectations.
- All cases are reviewed to determine that the appropriate overpayment rate is applied
- Each overpayment is reviewed by each CSW to determine suitability for the application of the 10% recovery rate. For all overpayments that were a result of any fraudulent activity, as a result of reimbursements or income received, the standard rate will apply. CSW's have the



discretion to apply the 5% rate if the overpayment meets the definition of undue hardship. The 5% rate is also applied to all overpayments as a result of administrative errors.

### **Financial Assistance expenditures are accurate and meet ministry expectations**

- Policies and procedures are in place for
  - Data and evidence verification for all costs
  - Monthly reconciliation of all general ledger accounts to the applicable Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) reports
  - Quarterly analysis and audit of expenditures
  - Annual audit completed for each third party provider
  - Review and the completion of any follow up from SAMS generated and Ad-Hoc Reports as appropriate
- All subsidy claims are completed by a position within the City's Finance Department
- All Subsidy Claims are reviewed and approved by the OW Administrator and the Director of Human Services
- Subsidy claims are completed and submitted on a monthly basis within the timeframes required to support the continued review and flow of funding
- All expenditures and payments made outside of SAMS are tracked and reported to the province with each subsidy claim. This would include Family Responsibility payments prior to 2013, Dental Administration and payments, and Gift Cards provided on a case by case basis for urgent needs.
- Finance Staff complete an annual review and reconciliation of all expenditures and payments outside of SAMS.
- The City adheres to all legislated and generally accepted auditing standards

## **4.2 Resource Analysis**

### **Reception Stream**

- Service starts with our team of reception staff – people are welcomed into a warm space and offered a place to warm up, cool down, rest and are offered nourishing snacks. With the change in behaviours and activities seen in our reception area, we maintain 3 full-time staff in reception at all times and have a detailed process for ensuring sufficient coverage is available.
- We have standard training that is offered to all staff working in reception that includes trauma informed care, health and safety training, self-defence training, etc.
- We have implemented a system that would immediately notify the management team when assistance is needed in the reception area.
- To better serve participants all reception stream staff have an awareness of the services and programs offered throughout the Human Services Department
- To ensure continuity in supervision, all reception staff report to one supervisor
- All phones lines into reception are answered live by reception staff

- Reception team members are also part of our payment functions stream
- Staffing must be maintained during identified peak times when service requests are increased. Data and analysis completed identified staffing complement required and identifies peak periods for time of day, day of week, week of month and month of the year

### **Application and Intake Clerical Stream**

- We have four full-time staff in this stream
- Provides coverage for the reception team on a daily basis
- Staffing must be maintained during identified peak times when service requests are increased. Data and analysis completed identified staffing complement required and identifies peak periods for time of day, day of week, week of month and month of the year
- Staff are required to upload data from all applicable reports to our monitoring and tracking systems
- Third Party Checks and Logs, as directed by the CSW, are completed by this team

### **Payment Functions Stream**

- One full-time staff in this stream however is assisted by other clerical staff
- Processes monthly and daily financial assistance payments
- Day to day management of clerical functions for overpayments including 30, 60, 90 and annual communications
- Annual review of overpayments and makes recommendations for write-offs or cases to go to collections
- Clerical support for Eligibility Review Officer and Program Integrity Officer

### **Client Services Worker – Application Stream**

- This team processes the full application for financial assistance and makes the determination for eligibility for emergency assistance or ongoing assistance
- Third Party Checks are requested and reviewed by this team
- Prior to IBAU, all CSW's completed applications for assistance. With IBAU, we initially had three full-time staff completing intakes however with the number of applications we are required to review, adjust, make corrections to, we have increased our application stream to four full-time staff

### **Client Services Worker**

- Current staff complement of 18 full-time staff
- Responsible for the ongoing service management for all in receipt of Ontario Works and NDA's
- Financial Updates and Reviews are required every 24 months
- Staff have the discretion to determine the best schedule for connecting with participants – the needs and plans of the participants informs that decision. Some participants are connected with weekly, monthly or every other month. Staff are to connect a minimum of once every

three months and to meet in person once annually. Staff have developed processes to ensure that virtual and phone meetings can be supported

- We currently have one dedicated CSW to complete EVP requirements however we are looking to review this practice to determine if we can maintain consistent completion of EVP if all staff complete a portion of the assigned files
- One FTE CSW provides coverage for caseloads for staff on leaves and out of office – we consistently have 1 to 2 staff on leave at any given time
- Additional funding is needed to continue to support this level of service delivery, should improvements to eligibility and workflow not progress at IBAU to offset the administrative burden it is costing at the local level.

### **Program Integrity Team**

- Two full-time staff are responsible for daily activities that support program integrity
- Staff are responsible for file audits and reviews, processing and following up on all investigations of fraud, any identified misuse or misrepresentation of funds
- Staff are responsible for training all staff on Ministry and local policies and procedures, service expectations and SAMS
- Staff review policies and procedures, legislation and complete audits to ensure consistent application

### **Management Team**

- 3.32 FTE including supervisors, Manager (OW Administrator) and Director
- Direct supervision of all staff, participation in community, regional and province-wide committees, working groups and associations
- Review policies, procedures, data analysis, SAMS reports, tasks
- Direct relationship with community partners, EO providers
- With the increased acuity and need of participants, supervisor involvement with day to day participant interactions is increasing and affecting capacity to overall system management

## **4.3 Monitoring Activities**

### **Overall Readiness**

Resources are dedicated to ensure programs and services are delivered in accordance to legislative and policy requirements including:

- Program and Service Audits are completed including annual full file reviews and topic specific reviews (i.e. review of assignments of benefits, evidence verification, etc.) on a monthly basis
- Financial re-assessments are completed every 24 months on all cases
- Third Party Checks are completed as required
- All deferrals from participation in an action plan are reviewed as the expectation is to have over 95% participants with action plans

- Expectation that 100% of all Eligibility Verification Process cases are assigned within 15 days and 90% of their cases are completed within 60 days. We are currently not meeting this expectation due to medical leaves for staff in this position. We are reviewing our process in 2024 to establish an approach that will result in consistency of completion of cases.
- All cases are reviewed to determine that the appropriate overpayment rate is applied
- Supervisors review files and performance reports on a monthly basis and provides direction as required
- Manager reviews and analyzes performance reports and provides direction as required
- Annual review of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with ministry and local direction, service plans and legislation

### **Submission of Actual Expenditures**

Financial Assistance expenditures are accurate and meet ministry expectations

- Policies and procedures for
  - Data and evidence verification for all costs
  - Monthly reconciliation of all general ledger accounts to the applicable Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) reports
  - Quarterly analysis and audit of expenditures
  - Annual audit completed for each third party provider
  - Review and the completion of any follow up from SAMS generated and Ad-Hoc Reports as appropriate
- All subsidy claims are completed by a position within the City's Finance Department
- All Subsidy Claims are reviewed by the OW Administrator and the Director of Human Services
- The City adheres to all legislated and generally accepted auditing standards
- The City processes payments that are process outside of SAMS and provides supporting documentation through secure email with each monthly subsidy claim. The payments are reviewed as above, and may include the following:
  - Payments made directly to Revenue Canada for a Service Provider as required by Revenue Canada
  - Payments processed related to Family Responsibility payments received that apply to time periods prior to 2013
  - Payments related to Dental Services managed by a Third Party
- All reports to authorities including local and provincial are based on actual expenditures and submitted through appropriate sources

### **Submission of Outcomes Achieved**

- Performance reports are reviewed on a monthly basis
- Reports are reviewed for current year, past year and compared with communities within our service area
- Service analysis is completed and updated monthly

- Data is collected and stored in one location. Data Analysis Coordinator and Financial Coordinator work together to provide up to date and current performance related reports
- Management and the Program Integrity Team work to identify and implement mitigation strategies as necessary
- Our review indicates that we will not be able to meet all Ministry set targets for the 2024-2028 period.

## **Performance Reports**

- We have a detailed process for reviewing performance related reports
- We have a central location for all data related reports and information
- Report tracking is set to show current year performance, year over year performance, trending data and identify any outliers
- A Report Matrix is used to identify the purpose of the report, the intended audience and identify actions required as part of the review of the results
- Majority of reports are available for all staff to review – there are stored in a central location
- Supervisory level reports are reviewed by the management team

## **Quality Assurance (QA)**

- Program Integrity Team regularly meets and prepares training for all staff
- Data, Reports and Analysis centrally stored in and kept up to date weekly, monthly, quarterly as appropriate
- A single source for final data is maintained that includes analysis that is available to the entire department and all staff to ensure consistency of information shared and that we are all working from the same place
- Management Team provides direction to Program Integrity Team on file audit requests that will be both quantity and quality based, will ensure adherence to provincial and local policies and procedures, legislation and meet our service expectations and goals
- Completed audits include observations, data and recommendations which are submitted to the Management Team
- Management Team provides direction on individual or group training needs, will update policies and procedures as appropriate

## **Risk Mitigation Testing**

- The Management Team will be responsible for reviewing any risk mitigation questions and will assign work to the Program Integrity as appropriate.
- The test scripts will be completed as required and returned to the Ministry for appropriate review

## 4.4 Privacy

The Privacy Risk Assessment was completed and will be submitted as a part of the Service Plan and is included below as Appendix C. Human Services has developed department policies and procedures incorporating all relevant legislation and working in partnership with the City's Clerk's Division. Staff are required to review and confirm understanding of and adherence to, policies and procedures annually.

During orientation and onboarding, staff meet with supervisors to review and understand the obligation to having access to confidential, personal information. During onboarding training, our Program Integrity Coordinator incorporates this understand as they train new staff on legislation, local policies and procedures, Directives and the Ontario Works Program.

The Program Integrity Team completes an annual privacy and third party access review and submits observations and recommendations to the Management Team. The Management Team then provides direction, performance guidance and training requirements for individuals and/or groups of staff.

The Privacy Maturity Self-Reporting Tool and has been completed and it attached as Appendix D.

# Appendix

## Appendix A: Community Services Inventory



03 - Excel Community  
Service Inventory Tool

## Appendix B: Performance Outcomes Risk Assessment



05-Kawartha Lakes  
Performance-Outcom

## Appendix C: Privacy Risk Assessment



07-Privacy-Risk-Asses  
sment-Template-EN-1

## Appendix D: Privacy Maturity Self-Reporting



Privacy-Maturity-Self-  
Reporting-Tool(3).xlsx