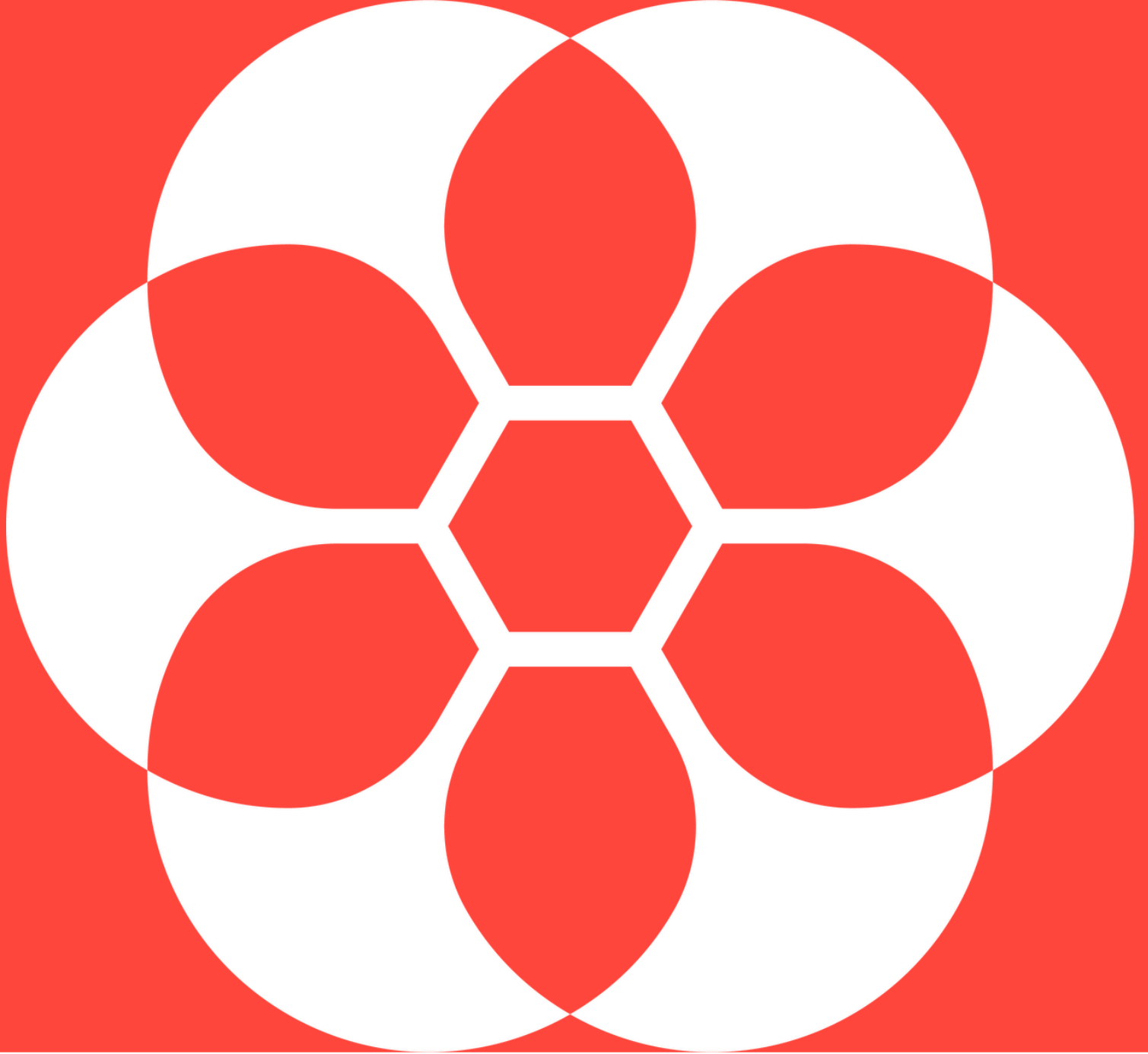




Local Office. District Impact.

Understanding the Role of CDSB for Future Municipal Leaders

Community Development & Services

CDSB • CSDC 

Cochrane District
Services Board

Conseil des services
du district de Cochrane

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES



The Community Development & Services Department is responsible for three key areas of service:

**ONTARIO
WORKS**

**EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO**

**COCHRANE
DISTRICT SYSTEM
OF CARE**

ONTARIO WORKS

Ontario Works is a provincial program that provides temporary financial assistance and employment supports to eligible individuals and families. The program helps residents meet basic needs during periods of financial difficulty while supporting them in achieving employment and greater financial independence. CDSB delivers Ontario Works directly throughout the Cochrane District.

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

CDSB operates Employment Ontario services in Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, and Matheson. Through these centres, residents can access employment counselling, career planning, job search assistance, training information, and connections to local employers. Employment Ontario supports both job seekers and businesses by helping residents develop skills and connect with employment opportunities.

COCHRANE DISTRICT SYSTEM OF CARE

As the Service Manager for homelessness programs, CDSB coordinates the Cochrane District System of Care, a collaborative network of community organizations working together to prevent and reduce homelessness. Through coordinated access, case management, homelessness prevention initiatives, emergency shelter supports, housing stability programs, and partnerships with municipalities, Indigenous organizations, healthcare providers, and community agencies, the System of Care helps individuals access the services and housing supports they need.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The Community Development & Services team plays an important role in helping residents navigate difficult circumstances. By connecting people with income supports, employment opportunities, and a system of support if they experience homelessness, this department helps build pathways towards greater stability.

The work that Community Development and Services does is also integral to meeting the current and future workforce needs of the Cochrane District.

UNDERSTANDING ONTARIO WORKS



Through a network of local offices, the program connects individuals and families with supports that help meet immediate needs while promoting long-term stability.

As of October 2026, there were 1,961 Ontario Works clients across the District.



UNDERSTANDING EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

The CDSB operates Employment Ontario (EO) programming in Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, and Matheson. EO provides free support to help clients find a job both in the private and public sectors. EO also supports pathways to employment by creating action plans based on the social determinants of health.

Although the CDSB only administers EO in three communities, EO administrators across the Cochrane District are key partners of Ontario Works across the District. Ontario Works case managers must refer 32% of their clients to Employment Ontario.

CASELOAD INFORMATION

In 2025, EO served 80 self-directed clients across Cochrane, Matheson and Iroquois Falls.

Self-directed clients are clients who require limited assistance. These clients may need a bridge to finding job opportunities or general advice.

In 2025, EO served 121 assisted clients across Cochrane, Matheson and Iroquois Falls.

At the end of 2025, there were 114 active clients, four active clients on hold and three closed clients.

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO STREAMS

EO programming is broken up into three distinct streams of service. In Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, and Matheson, 63.1% of EO clients are Stream C.

STREAM A
RAPID EMPLOYMENT

Low risk of long-term unemployment.

STREAM B
EMPLOYABILITY & EMPLOYMENT

Moderate risk of long-term unemployment.

STREAM C
EMPLOYABILITY FOCUSED

High risk of long-term unemployment.

UNDERSTANDING THE COCHRANE DISTRICT SYSTEM OF CARE



The Cochrane District System of Care (SoC) is the district coordinated access system, bringing together community agencies, housing providers, Indigenous organizations, outreach teams, shelters, health care providers and social service organizations.

Rather than requiring people experiencing homelessness to navigate multiple organizations on their own, the System of Care creates a “no wrong door” approach, where partners share information and collaborate on solutions together.

WHAT IS THE BY-NAME LIST?

At the centre of the System of Care is the Cochrane District By-Name List (BNL). This is a real-time and continuously updated list of people known to be experiencing homelessness in the Cochrane District through a comprehensive Intake process. More than a database, this list allows partner agencies to coordinate supports, prioritize appropriate housing opportunities, and measure the gaps and needs of the response system.

The BNL includes information like housing status, housing history, demographics, and service needs.

WHY IT MATTERS

For municipal leaders, the SoC and BNL provides a clearer picture of homelessness across the District, helping ensure housing resources are used effectively. Together, they support:

- Coordinated responses to homelessness across multiple sectors.
- Faster connections to appropriate housing and support services.
- Better identification of those with the highest level of need.
- Data-driven planning and funding decisions.
- Measurement of progress and gaps.

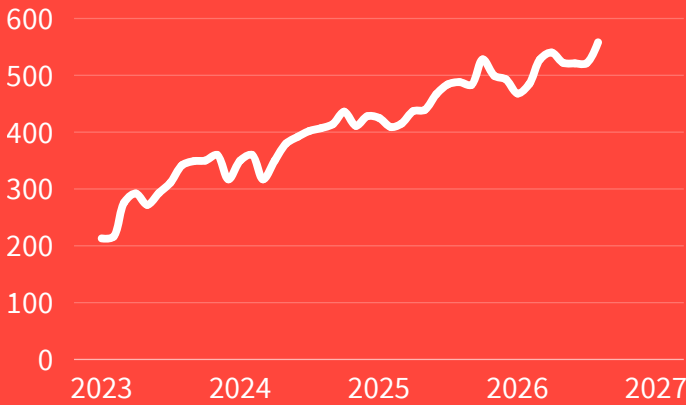
CDSB'S ROLE

The CDSB manages the SoC and serves as the Community Entity for the Cochrane District for the federal Reaching Home program. Through the SoC, the CDSB works with dozens of community partners to improve collaboration, and strengthen pathways to permanent, stable housing.

HOMELESSNESS IN THE COCHRANE DISTRICT AT-A-GLANCE



Total Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in the Cochrane District



From August 2025 to August 2026, the number of people experiencing homelessness increased by **14.58%**.

Since 2023, homelessness in the Cochrane District increased by 162%. During the same period, Provincial and Federal funding only increased by 3.14% (\$6.9M - \$7.1M). This funding supports:

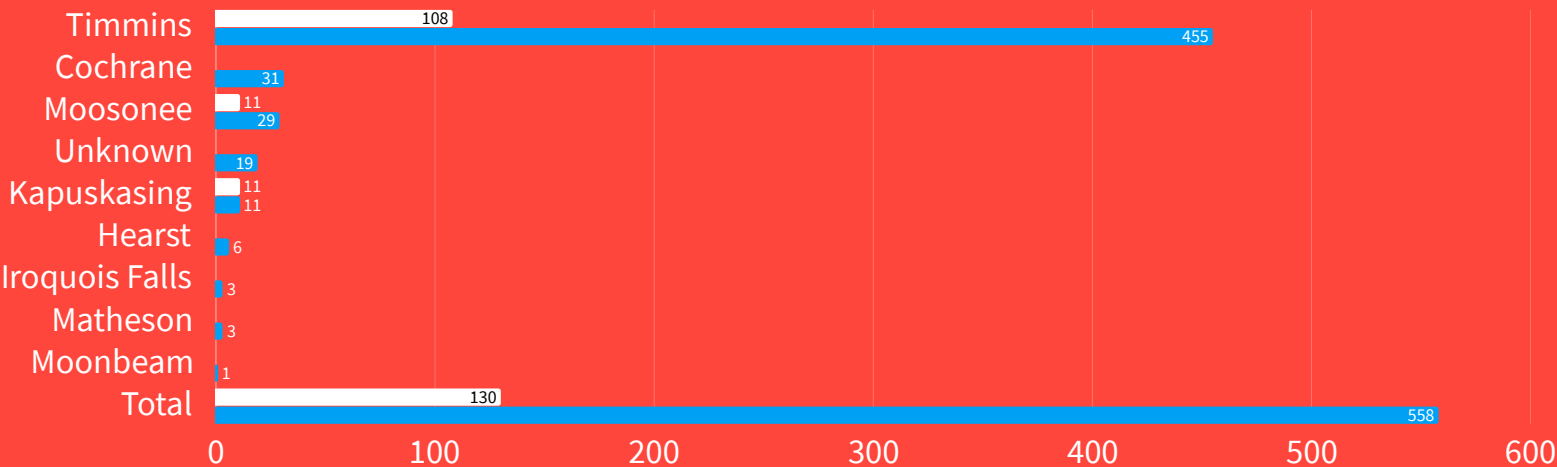
- Emergency and Violence Against Women shelters
- Housing retention programs and rent subsidies
- Outreach
- Youth and food security supports

In August 2026 a total of 558 individuals were actively experiencing homelessness in the Cochrane District. Of that 558:

- 68% had high support needs requiring 24/7 supportive housing
- 7% identified as Youth (16-24)
- 66.4% identifies as being from Northern Ontario, with 6% identifying they were originally from Southern Ontario.
- Poverty was identified as the largest barrier to securing appropriate housing.

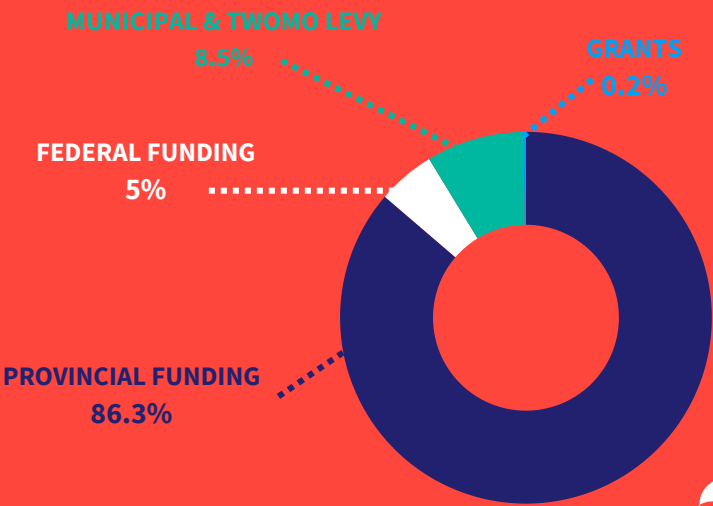
Understanding Shelter Capacity in the Cochrane District

● Shelter Beds ● Individuals Experiencing Homelessness



Less than 1 in 4 individuals experiencing homelessness in the Cochrane District can access an emergency shelter bed in the Cochrane District.

UNDERSTANDING FUNDING



In 2025, the total expenses for Community Development and Services was \$21,404,958, or 23.7% of CDSB's total expenses.



CDSB • CSDC

Community Development and Services

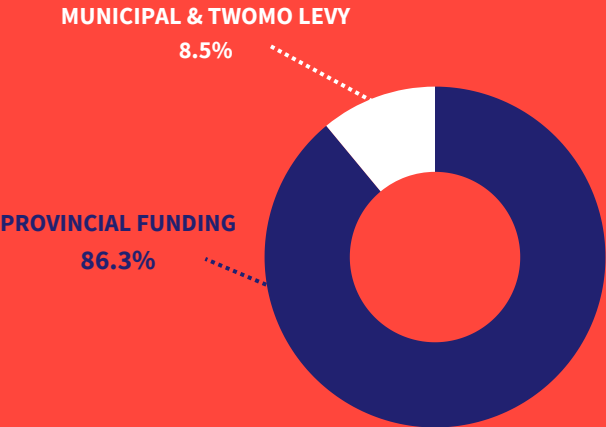
Services communautaires et de développement

WHAT DOES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES DO AND HOW IS IT FUNDED?

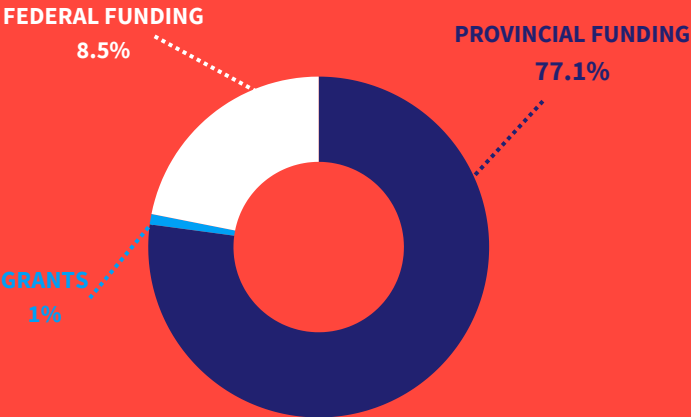


Community Development and Services is responsible for two main streams of service: Ontario Works and/or Employment Ontario programming and Homelessness Prevention & Response.

ONTARIO WORKS & EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & RESPONSE



UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES



Municipal governments across the Cochrane District are increasingly impacted by complex social and economic pressures. These systems are facing growing challenges that require coordinated local, provincial, and federal responses.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE THROUGH GROWING COMPLEXITY

Many individuals receiving assistance face multiple barriers to employment, including mental health concerns, addictions, disabilities, transportation barriers, housing instability, and limited access to childcare. This is seen through multiple programs, like Employment Ontario, where 63.1% of the caseload experiences high barriers to finding employment, and System of Care, where 68% of individuals identified had high support needs.

GEOGRAPHIC BARRIERS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Cochrane District is the second largest DSSAB in Ontario, covering over 140,000 km². The size of the District makes it difficult for residence to access employment and supports, especially in communities with limited or no public transportation.

LIMITED AND UNPREDICTABLE FUNDING

Homelessness is increasing significantly, both across the District and provincially, placing growing pressures on shelters, outreach services, housing supports, and community partners. Despite increased demand, homelessness funding has not kept pace. Since 2023, homelessness has increased 162%, while homelessness funding has increased by one 3.14%.

Additionally, homelessness funding is often announced or allocated late in the fiscal year with short-term funding cycles, making long-term planning challenging across the system. Service providers may be required to delay projects, postpone hiring, or limit program expansion while awaiting funding decisions.

THE ROLE OF CDSB'S BOARD WITH HOMELESSNESS-RELATED FUNDING

Outside of one-time funding opportunities, the CDSB is responsible for the allocation of two District funding sources: the provincial Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) and the federal Reaching Home Program.

The CDSB issues a Request for Proposal for both funding streams, once funding allocation letters and requirements are received, and an investment plan is presented to the Board for approval.

CONTACT US



**Administration Office
500 Algonquin Blvd E
Timmins, ON
P4N 1B7**



1-705-268-7722



communications@cdsb.care