

County Definition of Affordable Housing

Please provide the County's definition of "affordable housing" and share that definition with the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The County's definition for 'affordable housing' comes from the [Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#) and refers to housing that requires less than 30% of a household's before-tax income. 'Affordable housing' is a broad term that covers the housing continuum from homelessness to market home ownership. It includes housing provided by private, public and non-profit sectors and includes all forms of housing - rental, ownership and co-operative ownership, temporary and permanent housing. In 2016, 14% of households in Strathcona County (4,870 households) were spending 30% or more of household income on housing.

When housing is unaffordable and residents cannot find affordable options, they are said to be in 'core housing need'. Core housing need occurs when a household's dwelling is considered unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable, and when household income levels are such that alternative housing is unaffordable. In 2016, 5.5% of households in Strathcona County (1,970 households) were in core housing need.

In 2020, a housing needs and demand report was prepared for Strathcona County with more information about the status of housing in the County. The [summary](#) and [full report](#) are available on the County's website.

Additionally, this information and response was shared with the Accessibility Advisory Committee as requested.