



# Experiences with Rent Supplements Part 2

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City of  
**Peterborough**



Trent Community  
Research Centre



# Agenda

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**Discussion**



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Host Agency

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City of  
**Peterborough**

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# Key Terms

## Rent Supplements

Increase the affordability of rental units for individuals with low or moderate income

## Portable

A rent supplement that can be transferred to a new residence if the recipient moves

## Non-portable

A rent supplement that cannot be transferred to new residence if the recipient moves

## Geared-to-income

A rent supplement that depends on the monthly income of tenant

## Flat-rate

A fixed amount of supplement



# Project Background

- The City of Peterborough offers four different rent supplement programs
- Each program serves different people in different situations
- Some programs are portable, others are non-portable



# Rent Supplement Programs



# Part 1 and 2

01

## Geared-to-income

- Peterborough Housing Corporation
- Non-Portable
- Researched similar programs in other municipalities

02

## Flat-rate

- Housing Resource Centre
- Portable
- Researched experiences of individuals using supplements from other municipalities



# Project

## Purpose

- Evaluating the impact supplements have on the quality of life of participants
- Evaluating participants' experiences with the program
- Information will allow the city to share the successes and challenges of running these programs
- Information will be used for future funding decisions and may result in program policy changes





# Research Questions

## Feedback

What feedback can and should the municipality gather from users?

What research have other municipalities done on similar programs?

## Survey Structure

What survey structure could be repeated on an annual basis to collect current year and longitudinal data?

## Finding Units

How has finding a rental unit using the supplement impacted their lives?

What can they tell us about the changes this has made in their living arrangements?

## Quality of Life

What impact on quality of life has financial support had on supplement recipients?



# Project

## Methodology

- Survey 115 Housing Choice recipients
  - Analyze results in excel
- Conduct a focus group
- Grey literature research



# Other Municipalities

## 01 Bruce County

- Conducts 3 surveys
- “How stressed are you as a result of your rent?”
- “Do your housing costs impact the amount of funds you have available for other basic needs?”

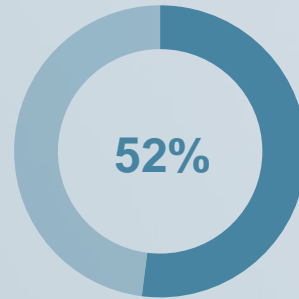
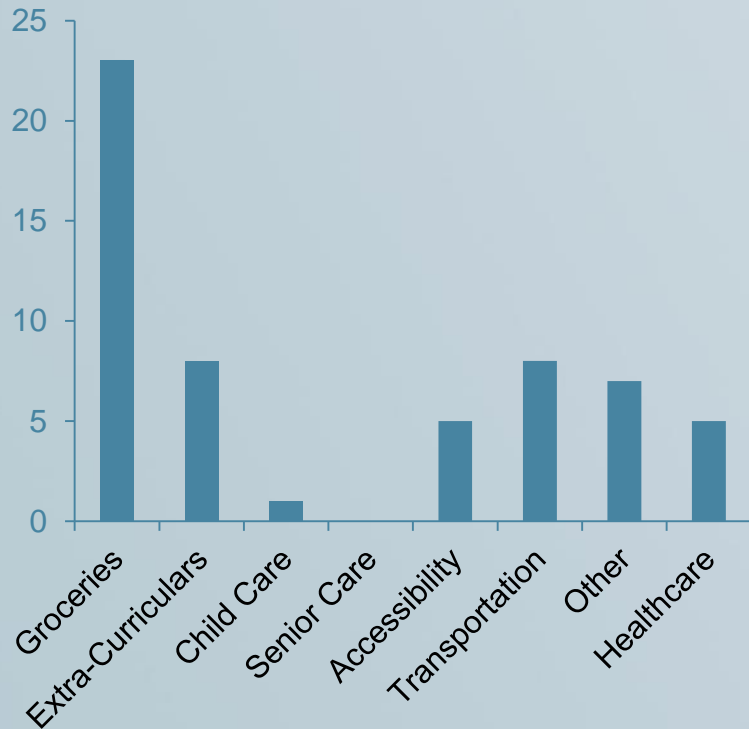
## 02 Ottawa (OCH)

- Provides a Tenant Guide
- 75% Satisfied with communities
- 74% Satisfied with service
- 81% feel safe

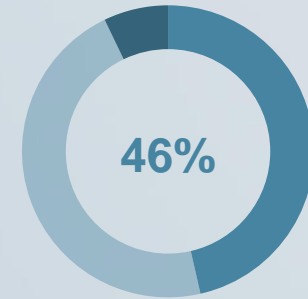


# Survey Results

## What can you now afford?



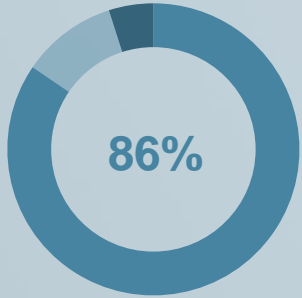
**Inquiry List**  
Waited 0-6 Months



**Emergency Funds**  
The amount of individuals who needed funds is equal to those who did not

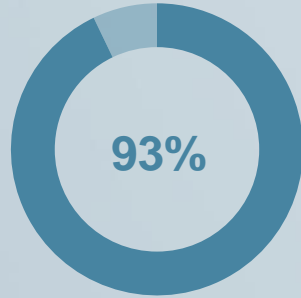


# Survey Results



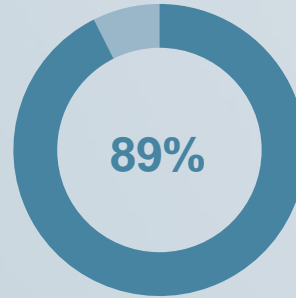
## Moved

86% have never moved since receiving the supplement



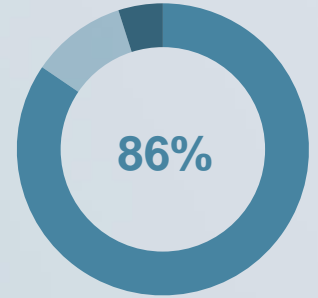
## Better Life

93% said the supplement has made their life better



## Same Location

89% have been able to live in a location longer



## Portability

86% saw a benefit to portability



# Comments

Location  
Community  
Safe

Grateful  
Improved Life  
Customer Service

**Do you like  
where you live?**

**Comments on  
the program**

Amenities  
Location  
Increasing Rent

Extended  
More Money  
Reduced Wait Times  
Indexed



# Focus Group



- Emphasized survey results
- More money available to do things
- Makes living comfortable and easier
- Can afford food, internet, and cable
- Can't afford to benefit from portability



# Discussion

## Feedback and Survey Structure

- Surprised by lack of research done by other municipalities
- Future surveys should collect quantitative results using a sliding scale
- Could evaluate tenants' stress levels due to rent, utilities, and landlords





# Discussion

OECD\*

## Quality of Life Indicators

- Health
- Civic Engagement
- Accessibility of Services
- Safety
- Community
- Life Satisfaction
- Environment
- Education

HRC

## Mentioned Indicators

- Healthier Groceries + Healthcare
- Extra-Curriculars
- Transportation
- Safety
- Community
- Improved Life
- Good Location



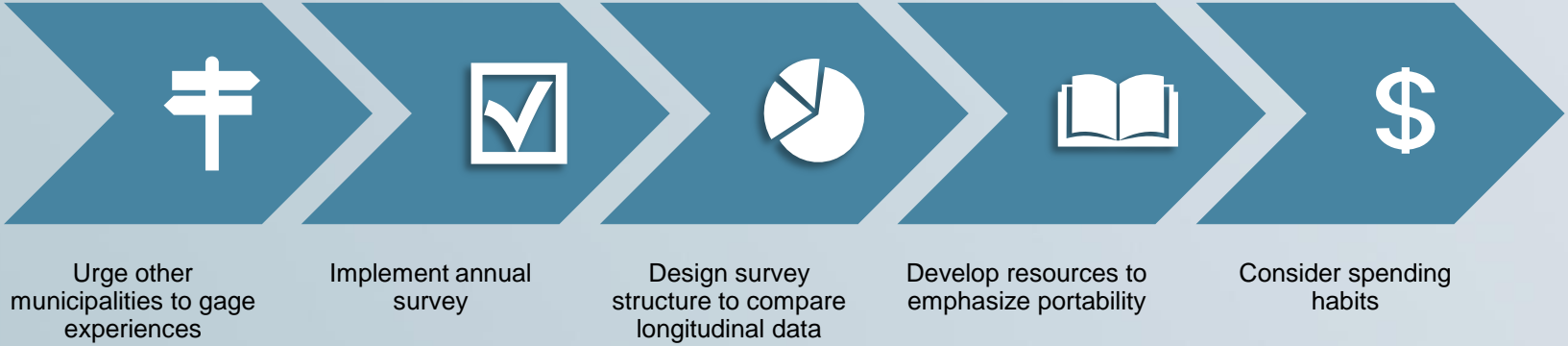
# Discussion

## Finding Units

- The rent supplement has allowed recipients to balance accessibility and affordability of a unit
- Being part of the program has made life more secure and comfortable
- The majority of recipients have been able to stay in one location longer



# Next Steps





**Thank you**