

Reaching Home:

Sault Ste. Marie Community Plan

2019 – 2024

Note:

All communities receiving funding from Designated Communities stream are required to use this template in order to complete the community plan under Reaching Home. In completing this template, communities are encouraged to develop comprehensive community plans that reflect the contributions of all funding partners, including other orders of governments, not-for-profit organizations, and the for-profit sector.

Please note that in communities that receive funding from both the Designated Communities and Indigenous Homelessness streams, cross-stream collaboration is expected to promote the adoption of a community-wide planning process and support the achievement of community-level outcomes reflecting the needs of the whole community. To support communities in completing their community plans, a Reference Guide has been developed. It is recommended that this be reviewed prior to completing your community's homelessness plan to ensure understanding of the requirements and completeness.

The Community Plan for Reaching Home must be approved by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) of the Designated Community before it is submitted to Service Canada. If your community is developing a joint plan with the Indigenous Community Entity, both Community Advisory Boards must approve the community plan.

In addition to the core requirements provided in this template, communities may also wish to include other components that provide insight into the community's housing and homelessness context or contribute to community-level homelessness challenges, such as a map of the community's current homelessness services and/or gaps in homelessness services or infrastructure (e.g. housing stock). Communities have full flexibility in drafting these sections.

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1. Community Engagement

Please identify the steps taken to engage your community stakeholders in developing this plan.¹

The District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Service Administration Board's (DSSMSSAB) 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan continues to be the guiding document in our community to address housing and homelessness needs. This plan is currently being updated to reflect the work that has been done since the implementation of the plan in 2014. Previous federal funding (through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy) was utilized to support two of the five strategic directions outlined in the plan including 1) Foster the development of an integrated system of housing and homelessness services and 2) Develop solutions to prevent homelessness. Reaching Home funding will continue to be utilized to address these two strategic directions and align with the priorities set out in the Reaching Home directives. The current activities funded by Reaching Home fall into 4 of the 5 priority categories including with some activities addressing multiple priorities:

Priority Category	Funded Activity
Housing Services	Indigenous /Intensive Housing Based Case Manager
Client Support Services	Indigenous /Intensive Housing Based Case Manager
Prevention and Shelter Diversion	Shelter Diversion Worker
Coordination of Resources and Data Collection	Housing and Homelessness Coordinator Training Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

Consultation on the Reaching Home Community Plan

May 9th, 2019: Community Entity (CE) reports to Community Advisory Board (CAB) on Reaching Home budget for 2019-2024. Information provided regarding mandatory requirements of Reaching Home to include a move to an outcomes-based approach. Four community outcomes described. Discussion also focussed on coordinated access as a program priority for Reaching Home and the need to dedicate a staff person to implement and coordinate this priority. Discussion also took place regarding the 10 year housing and homelessness plan and Reaching Home funds to continue to

¹ Engagement with local Indigenous organizations, and the Indigenous Community Entity and Community Advisory Board (if applicable) is expected in the development of this community plan.

complement provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funds. Approval obtained by the CAB for the budget presented.

October 2, 2019 Presentation to the Homelessness Prevention Team. This team is made up of front line workers from various agencies including the Indigenous Friendship Centre, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, Algoma Public Health, Canadian Mental Health Association, Sault Area Hospital, Ontario Disability Support Program, and the John Howard Society of Sault Ste. Marie.

October 3, 2019 Community Advisory Board meeting held. A draft of the community plan was presented to the Community Advisory Board members with clarification requested by members regarding the proposed budget. Recommended changes by the Community Advisory Board were made and members agreed for an electronic vote to take place. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed between the DSSMSSAB and the Indigenous Friendship Centre in order to facilitate ongoing communication between both parties in receipt of Reaching Home funding.

2. Investment Plan

In the table below, please outline your planned allocation of Reaching Home funding from 2019-24 by investment area. Please note that it is acceptable that your community's funding priorities change over time. This investment plan is to demonstrate that your community has a vision moving forward for the allocation of Reaching Home funding. An example has been included in the Community Plan Reference Guide.

Designated Community Funding Stream

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Housing Services	19.48%	20.97%	19.38%	20.06%	20.46%
Prevention and shelter diversion	19.48%	20.97%	19.38%	20.06%	20.46%
Support Services	19.49%	20.97%	19.39%	20.05%	20.45%
Capital Investments	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Coordination of Resources and Data Collection	31.55%	32.86%	31.85%	32.66%	33.88%
Administration	10%	4.23%	10%	7.17%	4.75%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Reaching Home Allocation

YEAR	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
AMOUNT	\$296 334.00	\$286 334.00	\$315 985.00	\$311 485.00	\$311 485.00

3. Cost-Matching Requirement

In the table below, please outline all funding for homelessness initiatives your community plans to receive from external partners from 2019 to 2024. An example has been included in the Community Plan Reference Guide.

Projected Funding towards Homelessness Initiatives						
Funder	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2019 - 24
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)	\$1,436,957	\$1,436,957	\$1,436,957	\$1,436,957	\$1,436,957	\$7,184,785

**Funding past 2019-2020 is projected.*

4. Coordinated Access

Please discuss the steps you will take to implement a coordinated access system in your community. If your community has a coordinated access system in place, please describe how it presently functions.

Geographical Coverage – City of Sault Ste. Marie and 31 unincorporated townships.

Sault Ste. Marie began implementing a Coordinated Access system in 2015. We are now in the process of introducing our By-Name List to track those individuals who are experiencing homelessness. The By-Name List will give up real time data of all people experiencing homelessness in our community. It will track the inflow and outflow of shelter clients at a systems level. We are currently using a decentralized model and have 3 points of access including jail, emergency shelters, and the hospital.

Current steps are in place to increase our access points to the Neighborhood Resource Center, Soup Kitchen Community Centre and the Indigenous Friendship Center. At each of these access points, a common pre-screening tool is administered, Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI SPDAT) followed by the

assessment tool, Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT) as required. The score of the assessment determines their placement on the centralized waitlist. Those individuals with highest acuity receive wrap around supports to stabilize and maintain housing thereby reducing the number of inflows and returns to homelessness

On November 25, 2019 a meeting was held with the Indigenous Friendship Centre (IFC) to discuss the implementation on the By Name List Application at their centre. Meetings will continue with the Indigenous Friendship Center regarding their involvement as an access point. The local IFC will meet with their Indigenous Community Advisory Board (ICAB) to discuss the implementation of the By Name List Application to ensure we capture any Indigenous homeless population that may be missed in the main stream access points.

A meeting was held on December 12, 2019 at the local Indigenous Friendship Centre to discuss the Coordinated Access/By Name List System Guide and Guiding Principles. The IFC was agreeable to the system guide and understands that it is a working document. It will be presented to their ICAB for further discussion. It was agreed that any amendments can be addressed at any time.

The System Guide and Guiding Principles is completed as of December 12, 2019 and will be an on going working document.

Under Reaching Home, the use of HIFIS has been made mandatory. Sault Ste. Marie adopted the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System in 2014. HIFIS 4.0 is the version currently being used. Further training will be required for service providers as part of coordinated access as well as the creation of a HIFIS working group. The goal of the working group will be to ensure end users of the system are familiar with the collection and entry of data.

5. Community-Wide Outcomes

If you would like your community to measure progress on additional outcomes beyond the [federally mandated outcomes](#), please identify those outcomes. Please provide your proposed indicators, targets, and methodology for each of the additional identified outcomes.

Sault Ste. Marie will only be measuring the federally mandated outcomes.

1. Chronic homelessness in the community is reduced
2. Homelessness is reduced overall, and for Indigenous individuals
3. New inflows into homelessness are reduced; and
4. Returns to homelessness are reduced

6. Official Language Minority Communities

The Government of Canada has a responsibility under the Official Languages Act to ensure that programs and services meet the needs of [Official Language Minority Communities \(OLMCs\)](#). Please describe the steps that you will take to ensure that the services funded under the Reaching Home take the needs of the [OLMCs](#) into consideration where applicable.

The DSSMSSAB is committed to ensuring that we address the needs of homeless persons in both official languages. We will include a clause in all sub project agreements to include the services to be offered in the minority official language if requested, and will continually monitor the demand for services in the minority official language.