

Reaching Home:

Halifax Homelessness 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

The following stakeholders participated in the development of the Halifax's Coordinated Access System (CAS) in 2018-2019. The 2019-2024 Community Plan builds on this work with the refinement of CAS, the adoption of a housing focused sheltering framework, and its focus on housing placement, including expanding permanent supported housing.

The principle youth serving agency, which includes Halifax's youth shelter, is not participating in Coordinated Access.

| Designated Community of Halifax Stakeholders | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Organization | |
| Adsum for Women and Children | Elizabeth Fry Society |
| Shelter Nova Scotia | Stepping Stone |
| Bryony House | MOSH Housing First Team |
| Salvation Army | Halifax Street Navigator |
| Out of the Cold Emergency Shelter | Dartmouth Street Navigator |
| Mobile Outreach Street Health Team | ARK Youth Services |
| Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society | Mainline |
| YWCA | Direction 180 |
| Phoenix Youth Programs | Chebucto Connections |
| Saint Vincent de Paul Society | Dartmouth Housing help |
| John Howard Society | Marguerite Centre |
| Akoma Family Centre | Alcare |
| Halifax Housing Help | Freedom Foundation |
| | |

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) did not hold any meetings with any "stakeholders" specifically about the Reaching Home (RH) Community Plan. The 18 months invested in CAS is what has influenced the notional distribution of the RH funding to the Investment Plan section which follows. There is a very clear understanding of what RH can contribute to meeting the mandated outcomes; more intensive case managers, permanent supported housing, a system of supporting clients in crisis, a health case manager, continued support for the chronically and episodically homeless that were housed through the 2015-2018 Housing First initiative. There is also an understanding that without increased access to affordable housing and clinical services from the Nova Scotia Health Authority the possibility for success is greatly reduced.

We meet with stakeholders constantly to advance these issues. The Halifax Housing and Homelessness Partnership, which includes both the Provincial Housing agency and the Health Authority, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Reaching Home is an agenda item and specifically two Reaching Home funded initiatives, diverting families from shelters to housing and permanent supported housing for high acuity individuals, are "standing agenda items" at these meetings. The Case Conference Table (CCT), which is made up of front line staff from those service providers listed above, meets each first and third Friday of the month. The CCT

understands the need for more intensive case manages and that there needs to be more coordination in the system but most importantly that the lack of housing options is a very big issue. The CAS Governance Table (part of the CAB) meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month refining the referral process, the rent supplement allocation process, tethering, By-Name List updating, etc. Governance also understands that investments are needed in intensive case management, more coordination of case management at a systems level and without permanent supported housing many chronically homeless will never be successfully housed. The Funding Panel (CAB members not employed by service providers) is now looking at the transition year contracts and trying to determine which contribute to the RH outcomes, which do not, which might be tweaked to bring it more in line with RH expectations, and what specific investments in housing services, prevention and shelter diversion, and client services will impact our community outcomes.

Halifax has only two Indigenous organizations. One is strictly a housing provider which is not yet participating in Coordinated Access. The other provides a wide range of services for all self identifying Indigenous. This organization has a “Housing Division” which supports individuals and families regardless of acuity. This organization is a Community Advisory Board member and a Coordinated Access System governance member. Nova Scotia now has an Indigenous funding stream and an established CAB. Until March 31st 2020, both streams share the same Community Entity. It is not known if the current Indigenous CAB will stay or be replaced or what agency will be the Community Entity on April 1st. The community of Halifax service providers expects all of this will be clarified when Service Canada will bring all the players together and explain its expectations for cooperation and collaboration in serving the Indigenous population in Halifax.

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.

Reaching Home Annual Allocation

2019-2020: \$2,436,393

2020-2021: \$2,418,893

2021-2022: \$2,766,804

2022-2023: \$2,759,674

2023-2024: \$2,759,674

| | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Housing Services | 63% | 56% | 49% | 49% | 49% |
| Prevention and shelter diversion | 3% | 12% | 10% | 10% | 10% |
| Support Services | 10% | 12% | 10% | 10% | 10% |
| Capital Investments | 4% | 0% | 11% | 11% | 11% |
| Coordination of Resources and Data Collection | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| Administration | 15% | 15% | 15% | 15% | 15% |
| TOTAL | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

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.

| Projected Funding towards Homelessness Initiatives | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Funder | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2019 - 24 |
| Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing | \$8,080,000 | \$8,230,000 | \$8,430,000 | \$8,430,000 | \$8,430,000 | \$41,600,000 |
| Halifax Regional Municipality | \$90,000 | \$60,000 | - | - | - | \$150,000 |
| TOTAL | \$8,170,000 | \$8,290,000 | \$8,430,000 | \$8,430,000 | \$8,430,000 | \$41,750,000 |

*Provincial responsibility for homelessness has been transferred from the Department of Community Services to the Department and Municipal Affairs & Housing. The Provincial contribution is made up of core funding for the 6 permanent and 1 temporary shelter, housing support worker staff in the shelter system and rental assistance, the most of which is for previous shelter users who are now housed. Funding is dependent on annual budget approvals by Provincial Treasury.

*City of Halifax funding is specifically for suburban outreach.

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.

Halifax's transition to CAS is in progress.

- There are over 30 agencies and government Mental Health and Addiction and Justice programs fully aware of the Halifax's Coordinated Access model. Affordable Housing Association Nova Scotia (AHANS) was determined to be the lead agency to manage the Coordinated Access System on behalf of community service providers.
- Community front line workers, as occasions warrant, can participate in the bi-weekly community case conferencing table, to both receive and offer advice to others on client support challenges. Regular monthly training and information sessions on our CAS are open for new staff of these agencies – particularly the referral process which adds actively homeless individuals and families to the By Name List. These agencies all work in the urban centre. This training will be extended to our suburban communities when our outreach efforts expand.
- The Coordinated Access System (CAS) governance working group is finalizing our CAS manual which will be posted on our web-site.
- The Governance table consists of the all shelter operators (with the exception of the youth shelter; that organization has declined to participate in CAS), the Indigenous organization and Affordable Housing Association Nova Scotia (AHANS) as the CAS manager. There is an intention to review the governance model.
- All Halifax shelters together with 8 other homeless serving organizations currently using HIFIS 4. Work is proceeding on moving our By Name List to HIFIS where it will be accessible to all participating agencies.
- Halifax has an Indigenous Organization working with homeless and at-risk of homelessness individuals and families self identifying as Indigenous in Halifax – the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society (MNFS). The Halifax service provider community began its CAS exploration and activities in 2018 with the full participation of the MNFS. A representative from the MNFS is a CAB member and the MNFS has a seat at the CAS Governance Table.

5. Community-Wide Outcomes

If you would like your community to measure progress on additional outcomes beyond those mandated in the Reaching Home Directives, please identify those outcomes. Please provide your proposed indicators, targets, and methodology for each of the additional identified outcomes.

Mandated Outcomes:

- 50% reduction in chronic homelessness
- A reduction in Indigenous homelessness
- A 100% reduction in a return to homelessness from housing
- A general reduction in overall homelessness
- New inflows into homelessness are reduced

Other Outcomes:

- Halifax will reach functional zero for the Persons of African Descent homeless population

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.

There are no official language minority communities in the Halifax Regional Municipality and since 1999 the Community Advisory Board/Community Entity has never had a request for information in any other languages. That being said, we would be more than willing to assist any group, organization or individual who would like to learn more about Reaching Home funding in their preferred language by:

- Making project-related documentation and announcements available in both official languages;
- Actively offering Project-related services in both official languages;
- Encouraging members of both official language communities to participate in the project
- Providing its services, where appropriate, in such a manner as to address the needs of both official language communities.

We will also continue to monitor the demand for services in the official minority language on an ongoing basis so that if need be the right mix of sub-projects is in place to support OLMCs.

Finally, from time to time, there may be individuals and or families on the By Name List indicating French as their first language who can be fully supported by the various Halifax service provider staff who are fluently bi-lingual.

Note: ESDC has removed all personal and identifying information for members of the Community Advisory Board(s) from this document. To validate or change this information, please contact your Service Canada representative.