

Reaching Home:

October 7, 2019

Prince George 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

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

The Community Advisory Board, Community Partners Addressing Homelessness, established a Community Homelessness Plan working sub-committee. This sub-committee of CPAH included the CAB co-chair Ian Harrower, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Jeanie Woltz, Designated Community CE, UWNBC, Nicole Doucette, Indigenous CE Coordinator, Patrick Coon, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Indigenous HF program, Connie Abe, Association Advocating for Women and Community (AWAC), Housing First Program. The committee determined that a community workshop would be held to assist with the priority setting for the Reaching Home Community Plan.

The committee also noted that a separate session or opportunity would be made for the homeless to have input. Two locations were discussed. This was a separate event at a local Drop-in location.

The Community Workshop was held August 22, 2019 with over 40 attending. We had a diverse range of attendees from homeless serving agencies, health, business, government and indigenous organizations.

The purpose of the Workshop was to gather issues, related to Reaching Home funding areas that have an impact on homelessness, or are a key component of addressing homelessness. The participants then prioritized issues, as well as prioritizing the major funding area.

A follow up workshop was held on September 12th at St. Vincent de Paul Society Drop In Centre to allow key homeless serving agencies that were unable to attend the Community Workshop held in August to participate. The goal of this follow up workshop was the same as that of the main Community Workshop.

Two group sessions were held September 19th at a drop in/food service centre (St. Vincent de Paul Society). This was advertised by way of note cards on the tables at the centre the few days prior to the event, as well as with posters. The AWAC outreach team also promoted the event. The participants at each session were asked to tell us what would best help them – what they needed to keep them housed or to assist them to access housing.

2. Investment Plan

In the table below, please outline your planned allocation of Reaching Home funding (including funding from the Designated Community stream *and* Community Capacity and Innovation stream) 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.

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

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Housing Services	10.40%	24.32%	24.47%	24.66%	24.66%
	\$62,000	\$142,898	\$151,928	\$151,998	\$151,998
Prevention and Shelter Diversion	30.5 %	24.32%	24.47%	24.66%	24.66%
	\$182,597	\$142,898	\$151,928	\$151,998	\$151,998
Support Services	29.80 %	24.32%	24.47%	24.66%	24.66%
	\$177,900	\$142,898	\$151,928	\$151,998	\$151,998
Capital Investments	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Coordination of Resources and Data Collection	14.30%	12.04%	11.59%	11.02%	11.02%
	\$85,441	\$70,744	\$71,960	\$67,925	\$67,925
Administration	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
	\$89,636	88,136	93,131	92,456	92,456
TOTAL	\$597,574	\$587,574	\$620,875	\$616,375	\$616,375

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. This includes both financial and in-kind contributions.

Projected Funding towards Homelessness Initiatives (see notes following)						
Funder	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2019 - 24
BC Housing	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000	\$5,200,000	\$ 26 million
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$ 2.1 million
City of Prince George	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$ 1 million
TOTAL	\$5,820,000	\$5,820,000	\$5,820,000	\$5,820,000	\$5,820,000	\$ 29.1 million

NOTE:

All future years, 2020-21 to 2023-24, are based on estimated projections and subject to change. BC Housing 2019-2024 figures are based on current agreements and subject to change.

A proposed [Integrated Health and Housing project](#) (news weblink) will be a significant contribution to addressing homelessness in the community. Until further along in the process actual budget amounts are not known.

“The Government of British Columbia is partnering with the City of Prince George and Northern Health on an innovative project that would bring together new affordable housing and health-care services to support people in Prince George.

BC Housing would lead the construction of the project, to be built in two phases. The first phase would include approximately 50 supportive homes for people experiencing homelessness and the second phase would include 50 affordable rental homes for low- to moderate-income individuals and families. Experienced non-profit housing providers would be selected to oversee the day-to-day management of both buildings.”

4. Coordinated Access

Please discuss the steps that will be taken 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.

Background

Prince George does not have a Coordinated Access System in place, however there is an existing table/project which it is believed is a significant step towards a CA system. This is the Homelessness Intervention Project (HIP). HIP was launched in 2009 by the Province of BC as a pilot project with the immediate goal of reducing chronic homelessness. Provincial Ministries and Health Authorities were directed to fully participate with the Ministry of Housing and Social Development (ministry at the time), the lead agency. Since that time, the HIP table has remained active, and the CAB believes this integrated table is the best starting point for CA in our community.

Partners at the HIP table include Provincial Government Ministries and organizations such as the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, BC Housing, Northern Health Authority, Public Safety, RCMP, Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training, Corrections – essentially agencies that deal directly with chronic homeless individuals and their housing needs.

Engagement

The Community Plan Development Workshop, a community engagement session, provided strong support for implementing Coordinated Access. The Workshop was well attended with representatives of homeless serving agencies, health, enforcement (RCMP, City), local government, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, HIP, Corrections, and Downtown Business.

At the workshop and through other conversations there is a clear indication that coordination of services and Coordinated Access for housing is seen as necessary to deal with homelessness. This item came up time and again at workshop tables and was given a high priority.

Proposed Coordinated Access System

The steps to implement this Coordinated Access System include:

1. Establish Coordinated Access sub-committee consisting of community stakeholders (from the CAB and the HIP) to determine an initial lead on CA development. This will include service providers, municipal and provincial government, and indigenous organizations, including the Indigenous Homelessness CE and Designated Communities CE. By end of year 2019.
2. Review Coordinated Access plans already in place by provincial government (BC Housing) including the HIFIS as a management system.
3. Work in partnership with the Homelessness Intervention Project Steering Committee (led by Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction) and agencies already doing coordinated housing placement.
4. Engage with broader community – to establish priorities and timelines that will guide CA implementation – one engagement session held August 2019 determined that there is an appetite for a collaborative, coordinated system. Additional engagement – spring 2020.
5. Options for a model of access, prioritization criteria and referral process. There is an existing assessment tool in place used by many /most community agencies. (VAT) At the community table, it will be determined if this is working well. Estimated timeframe for review – mid 2020.
6. Potential governance structure to oversee management of CA – while the conversation has started with the community, particularly at the HIP table, it is anticipated the form of governance will be determined by early 2021.
7. Review with BC Housing the projected timeline for shared HIFIS in order to assess this management tool's availability for Coordinated Access.
8. Identify additional sectors to be approached for planning and involvement in Coordinated Access – ie other service providers. End 2020.

BC Community Entities, the Province of BC and the Federal Government are currently involved in discussions concerning coordinated access and HIFIS. These discussions may impact the implementation of coordinated access as described in the Community Plan.

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.

Reaching Home has identified four core outcomes including:

1. Chronic homelessness in the community is reduced (by 50% by 2027-28);
2. Homelessness in the community is reduced overall, and for priority populations (i.e. individuals who identify as Indigenous). When applicable, communities may report on other priority populations;

3. New inflows into homelessness are reduced; and,
4. Returns to homelessness from housing 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.

This Community Advisory Board has met to determine if agencies are encountering a population of French-speaking individuals that access their services. It was determined that there is not a sufficient number of French-speaking homeless individuals in Prince George and the sector is not identified as being in need of additional measures.

In preparation for the point in time count, held in April 2018, the Community Advisory Board discussed this matter further to determine if there are a sufficient number of French-speaking homeless individuals in Prince George to warrant specific action. A need was not identified. The Community Advisory Board will continue to monitor the situation. If a need is identified in the community, the Community Advisory Board, the Community Entity and sub-projects will explore partnering with agencies that could provide translation services for individuals.

Sub-project agreements include a clause whereby sub-project organizations agree to provide services, where appropriate, in both official languages.

Also, Reaching Home documentation and announcements will be made available for the public and project participants in French as requested.

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.