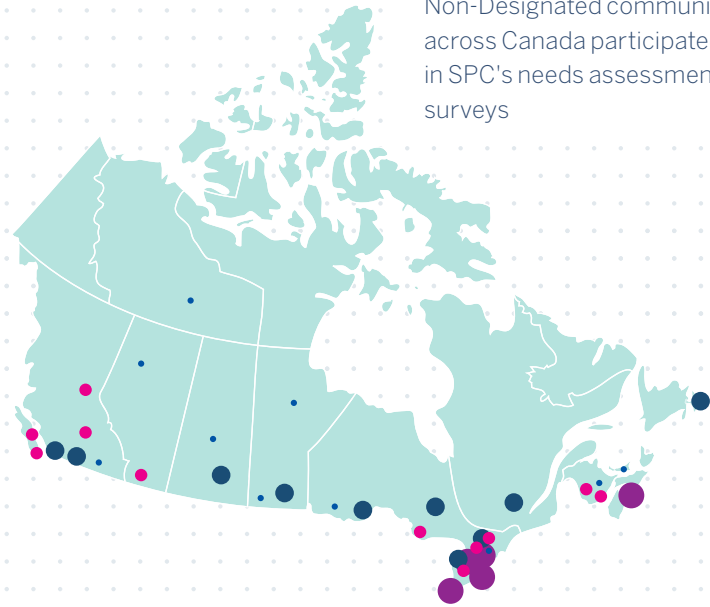# SYSTEMS PLANNING TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES ACROSS CANADA

The Systems Planning Collective (SPC) recognizes the need to engage systems and other sectors beyond typical housing and homelessness stakeholders in order to prevent and end homelessness.

Perspectives from local Community Advisory Boards (CABs), Community Entities (CEs) and Housing and Social Service Stakeholders allowed us to identify strengths and gaps in efforts to engage in systems planning.

Results of a needs assessment survey

103 individuals from Designated and Non-Designated communities across Canada participated in SPC's needs assessment surveys

What is systems planning?

Systems planning is a method of organizing and delivering services, housing, and programs. It involves analysis, planning and design of an integrated system of care, with well defined service-delivery components that work together towards a common end–in this context, to prevent, reduce and end homelessness. A focus on systems integration means that we recognize that the homeless-serving system can't resolve this complex issue on its own.

Who are we?

The Systems Planning Collective (SPC) was founded by A Way Home Canada, the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and Turner Strategies to enhance the quality of community-based systems planning in Canada. Our goal is to accelerate our collective progress towards preventing and ending homelessness and fundamentally improving outcomes for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.
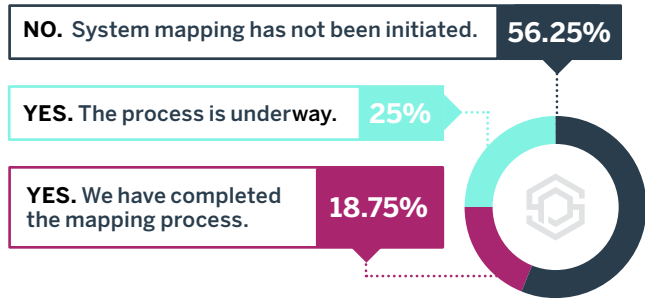
COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Participants identified needing more technical support, training, and resources around these priority areas.

Policy Development

Relationship/ Trust-Building

Performance Management

Financial Scenario Modelling

Government Relations

Private Sector Engagement

Systems Mapping

Systems Integration

Change Management

Actionable Data & Analytics

Creating Action Plans

SYSTEMS PLANNING COLLECTIVE

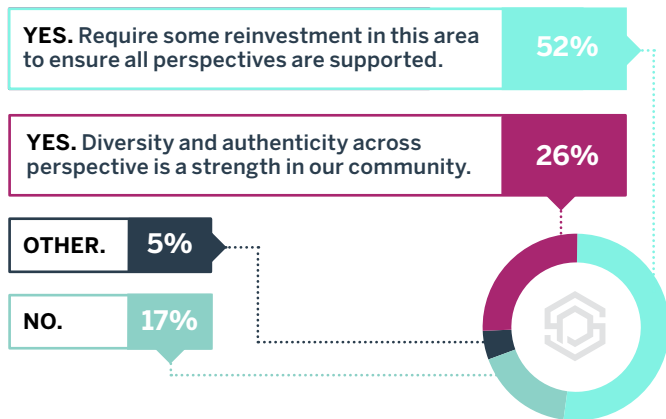## 1. Variance in the stage and depth of planning efforts

Q: My organization is aware of an up-to-date systems map outlining programs/services, players required, their funding sources, capacity/occupancy, etc. as well as, strategies and work underway relevant to homelessness in my community.

NO. System mapping has not been initiated. **56.25%**

YES. The process is underway. **25%**

YES. We have completed the mapping process. **18.75%**

"We recognize the need to do this and just need some support around developing a strategy to do it."
- Survey Respondent

2. Support needed to move from system planning to *systems* planning

44% of Housing and Social Service Stakeholders reporting no work plan existed at all
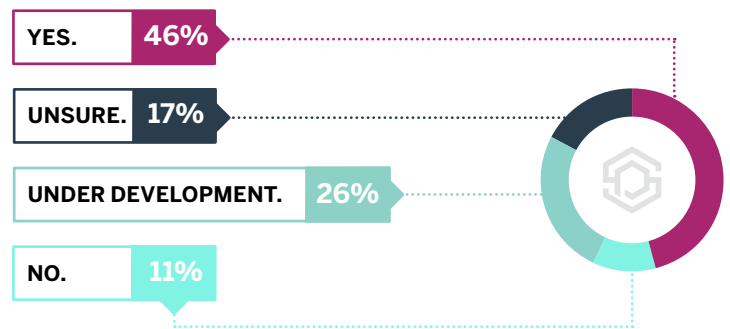
51% of Housing and Social Service Stakeholders

33% of CAB/CE respondents stated that their planning group did not have shared vision, mission, and guiding principles

60% reported not having a work plan with clear deliverables, timelines, and accountabilities

3. Greater diversity of and alignment between stakeholders needed

Q: We have authentic representation of diverse perspectives built into our systems planning work and decision-making, including people with lived/living experience.

YES. Require some reinvestment in this area to ensure all perspectives are supported. **52%**

YES. Diversity and authenticity across perspective is a strength in our community. **26%**

OTHER. **5%**

NO. **17%**

"We have representation from [the provincial housing corporation], but not decision makers. The people they send to our meetings are well-intentioned but not empowered."   *- Survey Respondent*

4. Data needs are significant

Q: Research to develop a thorough understanding of homelessness in our community is in place/underway to ground our systems planning work.

YES. **46%**

UNSURE. **17%**

UNDER DEVELOPMENT. **26%**

NO. **11%**

20% of CAB/CE respondents stated that their community had data collection in place to assess homelessness trends locally

"HIFIS is a work in progress, that is not fully utilized."
- Survey Respondent

5. Challenge to move beyond addressing chronic homelessness

"There is little in place that prevents homelessness. Systems continue to rely on shelters for discharging and releasing. Low to medium acuity homeless individuals have no chance at preventing their homelessness. They aren't going to be assisted until they are homeless." - Survey Respondent

Respondents indicated that there is a critical need to identify the steps to move beyond chronicity alone and integrate prevention and tailored approaches for key populations into their planning work.

NEXT STEPS

We're here to help you chart a path forward that aligns with federal priorities and your local needs, while also utilizing assets and opportunities in your communities! In Spring 2019, we're launching a comprehensive systems planning curriculum that provides tools, resources and provides technical support for communities across Canada.

The four pilot modules include:

Systems Planning 101 (Basic)	Planning for Change (Basic)	Engaging Stakeholders (Advanced)	Governance Models (Advanced)

In this Basic module, users will gain an understanding of how systems planning works.

This module will include:
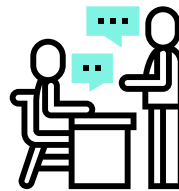*Webinar; One-Page Backgrounder; Infographic; Resource List.*

This Basic module explores the change management required to navigate the challenges and opportunities of systems change.

This module will include:
Webinar; Resource List; and Guide(s).

In this Advanced module, participants are instructed on ways to expand their local systems planning network beyond the "usual suspects" in the homeless-serving sector.

This module will use:
Webinar; Facilitation/ Consultation Guides.

This Advanced module compares and contrasts various governance models that can be used in local systems planning to address homelessness.

This module will use:
Webinar; Organizational Charts; Resource List.

The Systems Planning Collective is committed to working with communities and leveraging the strengths of its partners to take the latest knowledge in systems planning, policy and practice to scale and empower them to transform their responses to homelessness.

Icon bases made by Eucalyp from www.flaticon.com

For more information about SPC, visit: www.homelesshub.ca/SPC

canadian observatory on homelessness

TURNER | STRATEGIES

A WAY HOME VERS UN CHEZ-SOI

SYSTEMS PLANNING COLLECTIVE