

Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan Annual Update 2016-2017

Note:

Data submitted by the community during the 2016-2017 Community Plan Annual Update (CPAU) process is included in blue.

Data in **purple** was extracted from previous plans.

Community: [Toronto Aboriginal](#)

Region: [Ontario](#)

Approved on: [2016/08/11](#)

Contents

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| <u>Current Situation</u> | Error! Bookmark not defined. |
| <u>Your 2015-2016 Priorities</u> | 5 |
| <u>Official Languages Minority Communities</u> | 6 |
| <u>Your 2016-2017 Priorities</u> | 6 |
| <u>Information About Your Housing First Priority</u> | 9 |
| <u>Community Advisory Board</u> | Error! Bookmark not defined. |

Current Situation

Reference Number: 0-13816371

Housing First Implementation

As part of the 2014-2019 HPS Community Plan, most communities were required to rate their community’s readiness to implement Housing First. In the 2016-2017 Community Plan Annual Update, this questionnaire has been reintroduced.

As a community with a Housing First target, you are required to rate your community’s implementation of Housing First based on the following questions. Each component of the scale has a rating of one to four with four demonstrating a higher-level of fidelity to the HF model. Use this information to help you consider where to adjust your HF program.

| CORE PRINCIPLES | |
|---|--|
| Rapid Housing with Supports. Program directly helps participants locate and secure permanent housing as rapidly as possible and assists them with moving-in or re-housing if needed. | 2 - Program supports participants in locating housing within 4-6 months and does not offer participants who have lost housing a new housing unit. |
| Housing Choice. Program participants choose the location and other features of their housing. | 2 - Participants have little choice in location and other features of their housing, including the decorating and furnishing of their unit. |
| Separating housing provision from other services. Extent to which program participants are not required to demonstrate housing readiness. | 3 - Participants have access to housing with minimal readiness requirements. |
| Integrated Housing. Extent to which housing tenure is assumed to be permanent housing with no actual or expected time limits, other than those defined under a standard lease or occupancy agreement. | 3 - There are no time limits on housing tenure but housing is not considered permanent. |
| Tenancy Rights and Responsibilities. Extent to which program participants have legal rights to the unit. | 2 - Participants have a written agreement (such as a lease or occupancy agreement), which specifies the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, but contains special provisions regarding adherence to treatment or other clinical provisions. |
| Reasonable Cost for Housing. Extent to which participants pay a reasonable | 2 - Participants pay 46-60% or less of their income for housing costs and/or |

| | |
|---|---|
| amount of their income for housing costs and/or program has access to rent supplements or subsidized housing units. | program helps participants obtain rent supplements or subsidized housing units. |
| Housing Support. Extent to which program offers services to help participants maintain housing, such as offering assistance with landlord relations and neighborhood orientation. | 4 - Program offers ongoing housing support services. |
| SERVICE PHILOSOPHY | |
| Service choice. Extent to which program participants choose the type, sequence, and intensity of services such as recovery, medical and other services. | 4 - Participants have the right to choose, modify, or refuse services and supports at any time, except regular face-to-face visit with staff. |
| Participant-Driven Program & Services. Extent to which the program and services are participant-driven. | 3 - Program offers some opportunities for input on their individual services, but no opportunities to input more generally on program services. |
| Contact with Participants. Extent to which program maintains regular contact with participants. | 3 - Program meets with participants at least once a month to ensure participants' safety and well-being. |
| Continuous Services. Extent to which program participants are not discharged from services even if they lose housing. | 3 - Participants continue to receive program services if they lose housing provided that they are still eligible to be rehoused. |
| Directly Offers or Brokers Services. Program directly offers or brokers support services to participants, such as recovery, medical and other services. | 2 - Program directly offers or brokers some services. |
| Selection of Vulnerable Populations. Extent to which program focuses on chronic and/or episodically homeless individuals. | 4 - Program prioritizes interventions for participants who are chronic and/or episodically homeless. |
| TEAM STRUCTURE/HUMAN RESOURCES | |
| Low Participant/Staff Ratio. Extent to which program consistently maintains a low participant/staff ratio. | 2 - 36-50 participants per 1 FTE staff. |

Your 2015-2016 Priorities

Reference Number: 0-13816584

Report on your 2015-2016 Aboriginal Homelessness Funding Priorities

| Priority | Aboriginal Funding Percentage Committed in CPAU | Aboriginal Funding Percentage Spent | Actual Amount Invested Aboriginal Funding |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Housing First | 0% | 0% | \$0 |
| Individualized services | 100% | 100% | \$730,610 |
| Capital investments | 0% | 0% | \$0 |
| Coordination of resources and leveraging | 0% | 0% | \$0 |
| Data collection and use | 0% | 0% | \$0 |
| Community Entity administration costs | | | \$99,628 |
| Total Amount Spent | | | \$830,238 |
| Allocation | | | \$830,238 |

Report your Community Engagement

Official Languages Minority Communities

An OLMC is a community whose official language is not the language of the majority community (for example, Canadian English-speaking communities in Quebec, or Canadian French-speaking communities in provinces and territories outside of Quebec).

CABs and CEs are expected to identify OLMCs within their community and ensure that appropriate services and supports are available in both official languages where there is significant demand. More details will be available through an HPS program directive that will be posted on the ESDC website.

Please describe what actions have been taken.

This funding is Aboriginal designated funding, and does not directly benefit the needs of the OLMC. {In the future, please provide full description of any acronym used.}

Please describe how the CAB and CE will, in 2016-2017, assess the needs of the OLMC, implement measures that respond to their identified needs, and ensure that the services funded under the HPS address their needs.

This funding is designated to meet the needs of the Aboriginal Community within the GTA, and does not directly meet the needs of the OLMC. {In the future please define all acronyms.}

Your 2016-2017 Priorities

Reference Number: 0-13820976

The HPS encourages responsive community planning. Communities are encouraged to review their plans to make sure they stay relevant to the changing dynamics of the homelessness situation.

Your HPS 2014-2019 Community Plan was approved some time ago, and recent events may have occurred, which may result in modifying the funding priorities that you identified for 2016-2017. In addition, you may want to change the percentage you are committing to each of your priorities. If each of your priorities will change by less than 10%, there is no need to report any change.

The following table captures the funding priorities you identified and any changes made. If you made no changes, the priority is marked with an "x" followed by the

percentage identified in the 2014-2019 HPS Community Plan. If a change was indicated, only the change has been included.

Why did your 2015-2016 Aboriginal Homeless priorities (or the percentage you are committing to them) change since you created your 2014-2019 HPS Community Plan?

In our CFP the Toronto Aboriginal community ended up with more Organizations applying for Housing First funding than anticipated. Therefore we are targeting exceeding the 40% minimum allocation to Housing First by 8%. This reduced our non-Housing First allocation accordingly.

| Priorities 2016-2017 | Activities selected for funding with the HPS allocation. | Demonstrating Success (Targets for HPS Indicators) |
|---|--|---|
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 10px;">AH: 48%</div> <p>To reduce homelessness through a Housing First (HF) approach The Housing First model includes both housing and access to supports primarily for chronically and episodically homeless individuals.</p> | <p>The community will be dedicating the following percentage of its Housing First funding to each of the following activities:</p> <p>HF readiness: 0%</p> <p>Client intake & assessment: 0%</p> <p>Connecting to and maintaining permanent housing: 48%</p> <p>Accessing services through case management: 42%</p> <p>Data, tracking & monitoring: 10%</p> | <p>150 Individuals will be placed in housing through an HF intervention.</p> <p>85% HF Clients who will remain housed at six months.</p> <p>80% HF clients who will remain housed at twelve months.</p> <p>30 Days for HF clients to move into permanent housing after intake.</p> <p>30% HF clients who will be rehoused.</p> <p>10% HF clients who will return to homelessness.</p> <p>75% HF clients who will successfully exit the program to a positive housing situation.</p> |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 10px;">AH: 42%</div> <p>To improve the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and those</p> | <p>In 2016-2017, the community will be implementing the following activities:</p> <p>Connecting clients to income support</p> <p>Pre-employment support, and bridging to the labour market</p> | <p>In 2016-2017, the community hopes to achieve the following results:</p> <p>100 People will increase their income or income stability</p> <p>50 People will start part-time or full-time employment</p> <p>50 People will start or</p> |

| Priorities 2016-2017 | Activities selected for funding with the HPS allocation. | Demonstrating Success (Targets for HPS Indicators) | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>at imminent risk of homelessness through individualized services for the following populations:</p> <p>Chronically and Episodically Homeless Individuals Aboriginal people People with a Mental Health Issue People with Addictions Youth Men Women Women fleeing violence Families and Children Seniors</p> | | | complete a job training program |
| | Connecting clients to education and supporting success | 25 | People will start part-time or full-time education |
| | Housing loss prevention (only for individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness) | 50 | People will remain housed at three months after receiving a housing loss prevention intervention |
| | Housing Placement (outside of Housing First) Life skills development (e.g. budgeting, cooking) Supports to improve social integration Culturally relevant responses to help Aboriginal clients Liaise and refer to appropriate resources Basic or urgent needs services | | These services require communities to set no HPS targets at this time. |
| <div data-bbox="237 1157 453 1255" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 10px;">AH: 10%</div> <p>To preserve or increase the capacity of facilities (Capital investments) for the following populations:</p> <p>Chronically and Episodically Homeless Individuals Aboriginal people People with a Mental Health Issue People with Addictions Youth</p> | Transitional housing facilities | 0 | New transitional units added to a new or existing facility |
| | Permanent Supportive housing | 0 | New permanent supportive housing units added to an existing or new facility |
| | Emergency shelter facilities | 0 | New permanent emergency shelter beds added to an existing facility |

| Priorities 2016-2017 | Activities selected for funding with the HPS allocation. | Demonstrating Success (Targets for HPS Indicators) |
|---|---|---|
| Men Women Women fleeing violence Families and Children Seniors | | |
| <div data-bbox="237 590 451 699" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">AH: x (0%)</div> To ensure coordination of resources and leveraging | | |
| <div data-bbox="237 926 451 1035" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">AH: x (0%)</div> To improve data collection and use | | |

Information About Your Housing First Priority

Please describe your Housing First approach and provide a timeline for HF implementation.

Our Aboriginal Agencies have participated in the Housing First Workshops, and Service Canada's annual HPS Conference, so they have strong knowledge of the Housing First and the best approach. HF will be fully implemented by April 2016 for the Agencies that have opted to run Housing First specific programming. It is commonly know that Aboriginal People are over-represented in the PiT counts within the major cities in Canada, Toronto included. Our CAB recognizes that according to the recent Street Needs Assessment 33.9% of the people engaged for the purpose of the study were Aboriginal. And, of that, 16% were considered Absolute homeless, therefore we decided to allocate our \$'s and %'s accordingly. Housing has proven to be the most effective first step to insuring an individual's success. Statistics have proven that once housed, other factors associated with homelessness (addiction, unemployment, health and wellness concerns, incarceration, mental illness) reduce dramatically. Many agencies have been using this model with tremendous success, and we look forward to

demonstrating our successes while helping the City understand the unique needs of Aboriginal people who are homeless. It is important to note the lack of an Aboriginal Strategy within Housing First, and we will be positioning ourselves to be considered Best practices, and future Pilot sites for Aboriginal Specific Housing First Initiatives. Our agencies will target the hardcore Chronic and Episodic Homeless, in order to reduce their numbers on the streets of our major cities. Housing First has always been a priority for our Community, as is Prevention Services in order to assist individuals before they reach the Chronic or Episodic stage of homelessness. Our Community has been working holistically to address chronic and episodic homelessness for many years, and we are pleased with the implementation of Housing First strategies at the Federal level. Our Community Organizations and Agencies continue to work together resulting in a more efficient use of resources and services to better able to meet the needs of those accessing these services. This continued collaboration will assist in reducing duplication, while identifying best practices and where there are gaps in services. Information sharing at all stages regarding the needs of the clients and the resources available will result in more opportunities for early interventions to prevent homelessness, or in some cases deaths. Housing First is a priority for our Community because of the disproportionate number of our people who are homeless. Aboriginal People do not only represent the highest population of homelessness in Toronto, but we also are at the highest risk for addiction, abuse, incarceration, mental illness and suicide. We believe that each of these factors are directly related to situational and episodic homelessness. We further recognize that the population growth will our Youth, the highest growing population in Canada, as well as the influx of people coming to Toronto to search for work, coupled with the lack of affordable housing stock will increase the number of Aboriginal homeless and homeless in general. We trust that with the new injection of HPS funding and the Provincial commitment to clean affordable housing, we can end homelessness in Canada.

Please describe in more detail the group(s) this Housing First priority will address: **Both chronically and episodically homeless individuals.**

The Housing First Approach requires access to a range of client supports. How will you engage (or how are you engaging) provincial or territorial programs to facilitate access to provincial/territorial services for Housing First clients?

Our Aboriginal Agencies in the City of Toronto will strive to engage all community partners, and have established relationships with all agencies offering and providing provincial programming within the Toronto area.

What other resources can you leverage to contribute to your HF efforts?

HF Readiness Resources:

The Homelessness Hub website and of their resources, Eva's Place and Satellite offices, and all of the Aboriginal Agencies in the GTA as well as all of our strategic partners for example: MCSS, Aboriginal Healing and Wellness, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, MCWS Ministry Services, LHIN's, Ministry of Colleges and Universities, UAS, ASETS, Public Health, Skills LINK, Ontario Works, MNO, Toronto Shelter Housing, Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario Women's Directorate, OFIFC, City of Toronto, Social Planning Committee of Toronto, Affordable Housing, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Aboriginal Affairs Committee, Bread Bank, Food Share, Second Harvest, TPS, United Way, Children's Aid Societies, and Corrections Canada and Toronto Police Services.

Community Advisory Board

Reference Number: 0-13872030

Name of the Community Advisory Board: [Community Advisory Board](#)

Note: Information removed to maintain the privacy of the individuals on the CAB. To validate, or update this information, please contact your Service Canada representative.