

Supported Referral Program

Background

Homeward Trust's experience of implementing the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness has shown that more effort and investment are required to prevent homelessness and intervene "upstream" before individuals and families experience a long-term episode of homelessness (and become "chronically homeless"). As of the end of 2017, the by-names list exceeds 1100, and based on the needs identified, it is known that a significant portion of the individuals and families may require a lower level of supports than is offered through Housing First programs. While there are over 10,000 Edmontonians that may experience homelessness over the next year, this program is limited to supporting up to 210 households during this pilot.

Description

The Supported Referral program is a part of a diverse range of services that have been developed to assist individuals in moving to safe and stable accommodations, including Housing First Intensive Case Management, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Assertive Community Treatment. Each of these programs provides a unique approach to linking participants to housing opportunities. The Supported Referral program is a low intensity service that is intended to assist individuals who have some barriers to accessing housing on their own, but who already have existing relationships with the partner agency. Participants will benefit from accessing one-time financial assistance through a "client start-up" fund provided to the Supported Referral partner with the purpose of restoring housing stability and participant independence. Funds for the Supported Referral Program do not replace or duplicate services that are currently available. For example, emergency funds through Alberta Supports.

The Supported Referral Program has been made available to partner agencies through the Government of Canada's "Homelessness Partnering Strategy's Innovative Solutions to Homelessness" fund in the amount of \$320,000. The Government of Alberta, Community and Social Services is also contributing to this program through the Outreach Support Services Initiative in the amount of \$200,000. These resources are confirmed up until January 31st, 2019.

Organizations interested in becoming a supported referral partner may contact [Ashley Eddy, Manager of Access and Case Management](#), to discuss the opportunity. The following will be beneficial to incorporate for an agency to plan how they will implement supported referral work:

- Supported Referral would be a match for the needs of individuals served by the agency
- Programs are offered by the agency that actively engage and support individuals in building capacity and following up on housing stability
- Existing program or staff within the agency would have availability to action housing related work and connect the person to supports



homeward trust
edmonton

Supported Referral Program

The following agencies are currently working as part of a collective community through the Supported Referral program. For additional detail, please refer to a sample Memorandum of Understanding.

- Bissell Centre
- The Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation
- Catholic Social Services
- E4C
- George Spady Society
- Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women
- HIV Edmonton
- Norwood Child and Family Services
- Mustard Seed
- Pregnancy Pathways