



Edmonton Joint Planning
Committee on Housing



EDMONTON COMMUNITY PLAN

On

HOMELESSNESS

2000 – 2003

Executive Summary

Prepared through a community consultation process by:
Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing

November 2000

Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing

The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing prepared this three-year plan through a broad-based consultative process.

Members of the Steering Committee overseeing the process were:

Sundari Devam	Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation (ECOH)
Kent Fletcher	Capital Region Housing Corporation (ECOH)
Dennis Freeman (Chair)	City of Edmonton, Community Services
Helen Krimmer	Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta (ECOH)
Rob Martin	Alberta Community Development
Anne Milne	Human Resources Development Canada

Context for the Plan

Edmonton needs at least 5000 additional units of affordable housing. Many agree that the ultimate solution to sheltering Edmontonians who cannot provide their own shelter would be a substantial addition to the city's inventory of affordable housing. The participants in the Community Planning Charette, consultations and the Edmonton Task Force on Homelessness all indicated the real solution is the development of more affordable housing. In the absence of resources to take that action, the *Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness, 2000-2003*, proposes interim measures to address the most pressing needs.

The complete text of the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness report is posted on the City of Edmonton's Home Page www.gov.edmonton.ab.ca.

Copies of the complete report, or additional copies of the executive summary, are available from:

Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing

c/o Community Services, City of Edmonton

Tel: (780) 496-6029

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

The *Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness* provides a three-year \$49.3 million plan to advance efforts to address homelessness in Edmonton. The plan recommends actions for funds available through the federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), provincial and municipal government and community funding, along with additional new funding required. It also affirms the sustainability of projects, and outlines communication and evaluation plans.

The Community Plan's three-year budget is allocated as follows:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Budget (\$)</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Homeless Programs and Services	3,008,000	6%
Capital Projects:*		77%
Emergency Housing	5,964,399	12%
Transitional Housing	13,228,097	27%
Long-term Supportive Housing	18,448,224	38%
*10% to be accessible to persons with disabilities		
Operating/Program (facility-based)	7,538,441	15%
Administration and Evaluation	1,064,000	2%
Total	\$49,251,161	100%

The Community Plan is based on a “continuum of support” concept that:

- Focuses on the needs of the homeless
- Ensures the needs of the absolute homeless are addressed
- Enables the homeless to move toward self-sufficiency

The continuum of support system includes:

Needs identification and connection – In collaboration with an individual or family, identifying their needs and cultural sensitivities and connecting them to facilities and services.

Supportive and preventative services – Providing appropriate supportive and preventative services that assist the family or individual to move toward a more stable lifestyle.

Emergency, transitional and long-term supportive housing – Providing a range of housing related to the needs of the individual or family.

Community awareness – Raising community awareness of homeless to dispel myths, increase support and participation by the public in addressing needs.

The Community Plan will form the basis for agreements with the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton for funding in 2000-2003 to address the needs of the homeless in Edmonton. It will be administered by a two-pronged “community entity” – Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing to establish priorities and foster collaboration, and the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund to fund and oversee housing projects.

The plan outlines what can be realistically accomplished in three years. It does not address all the needs for housing, which include almost 5000 additional units of affordable housing. Further work will be conducted over the course of the plan to identify assets and gaps in more detail.

BACKGROUND

Community Plan objectives

Specific objectives are:

- To develop a computerized database to enable coordinated service delivery
- To develop cooperation arrangements among service providers
- To expand support and preventative services and add some new services, particularly for Aboriginals and youth
- To develop additional emergency units, transitional and longer-term supportive housing
- To implement community awareness programs
- To use the existing organizational structure to approve project proposals: The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee to establish priorities and the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund to oversee housing projects
- To conduct an annual evaluation and provide a public reporting on progress, and a final three-year evaluation.

Community Plan development process

A steering committee of the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing, with the assistance of consultants, developed the *Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness* using a broad-based consultative process. Representatives of the federal and provincial governments, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness oversaw the process. The committee invited input from 300 people through participation in a Planning Charette in May 2000 and feedback to drafts of the Community Plan. Participants were from the private, not-for-profit, voluntary and public sectors as well as representatives of the Aboriginal community, youth and the homeless.

Two reports provided primary resource material: *Homelessness in Edmonton: A Call to Action*, May 1999, of the Edmonton Task Force on Homelessness and the *Native Counselling Services of Alberta Community Consultation on Homefulness*, May 2000.

Needs in Edmonton

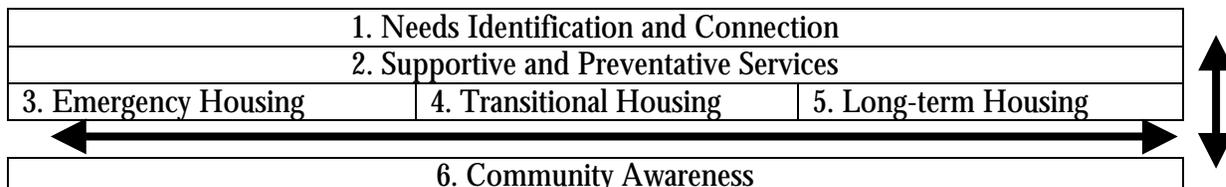
A review of the homelessness context within Edmonton, and the “gaps” in supportive, preventative and housing services led to the conclusion that most of the required services exist in Edmonton – but increased quantity and more coordination are needed.

For example, from a service perspective, all facilities need to assess needs and connect people with the appropriate service providers. For housing, gaps are quantified:

Type of housing	Gap
• Emergency	247
• Transitional	335
• Long-term (affordable and supportive)	4950

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Edmonton Community Plan outlines gaps and required actions for each of the next three years. They are organized according to the six components of the Continuum of Support concept:



Following is a summary of the Community Plan’s recommended activities, and the budget required in each of the three years. Required funding is outlined for homeless programs and services, capital funding for the development of emergency, transitional and long-term supportive housing, operating and program funding that are facility-based, and funding for administration and evaluation. Unlike one-time capital funding, the facility-based operating and program funding will be required on an ongoing basis. The initial years’ operating and program funding has been identified for the various types of housing. (Cap) denotes capital funding and (Op) operating funding.

Summary of Recommended Activities	Funding 2000/01	Funding 2001/02	Funding 2002/03
<i>Continuum of Support Component 1:</i> Coordinate identification of needs and connect the homeless to facilities and services			
1.1: Develop computerized database	\$10,000	\$400,000	\$100,000
1.2: Establish Aboriginal Systems & Data Committee		\$100,000	\$50,000
1.3: Encourage cooperation between service providers	\$5,000	\$50,000	
1.4: Arrangements for transportation of homeless to services	Donated vehicle(s) by service clubs if required		
1.5: Provide outreach training for front-line staff/elders		\$1,000	
1.6: Hire 10 additional mental health outreach workers in Year 2 and 5 in Year 3		\$310,000	\$165,000
1.7: Ensure cultural sensitivity in service delivery guidelines and train staff	\$20,000	\$20,000	

	Funding 2000/01	Funding 2001/02	Funding 2002/03
<i>Continuum of Support Component 2: Provide appropriate preventative and support services for the homeless</i>			
2.1: Revise allocation of resources to home care	Potential budget increase depending on options for reallocating resources		
2.2: Hire 10 mental health support staff for new housing units	Included in operating costs of housing units		
2.3: Provide 15 additional respite beds in Year 2 and 15 in Year 3		\$300,000	\$300,000
2.4: Orient Aboriginal persons to cultural differences of life in the city		\$25,000	\$25,000
2.5: Review and expand living skills programs			\$20,000
2.6: Review and revise Supports for Independence policies	Dependent on results of review		
2.7: Review and revise Rent-Geared-to-Income policy	Dependent on results of review		
2.8: Access to Housing and Eviction Prevention		\$20,000	\$20,000
2.9: Establish Homeless Prevention Program (Criminal Justice)	\$25,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
2.10: Provide meals and support for Youth (16-29) Program		\$91,000	\$91,000
2.11: Establish Youth Support Program		\$50,000	\$50,000
<i>Continuum of Support Component 3: Provide additional emergency accommodation as a safe, healthy alternative to the streets</i>			
3.1: Develop 13 new and 62 replacement units for hard-to-house individuals	\$2,344,399 (Cap) \$483,716 (Op)		
3.2: Develop 12 units for families	\$420,000 (Cap) \$478,980 (Op)		
3.3: Develop 160 units of singles emergency accommodation for target groups	\$1,500,000 (Cap) \$1,098,400 (Op)	\$1,000,000 (Cap) \$329,900 (Op)	\$700,000 (Cap) \$320,000 (Op)
<i>Continuum of Support Component 4: Provide additional transitional accommodation to enable a stable living environment while counselling and/or treatment is being undertaken</i>			
4.1: Develop 280 units of singles transitional housing for target groups	\$1,887,910 (Cap) \$675,250 (Op)	\$5,519,195 (Cap) \$1,758,935 (Op)	\$3,141,053 (Cap) \$792,260 (Op)
4.2: Develop 55 units of family transitional housing		\$1,250,510 (Cap) \$565,000 (Op)	\$1,429,431 (Cap) \$ 60,000 (Op)

	Funding 2000/01	Funding 2001/02	Funding 2002/03
<i>Continuum of Support Component 5:</i> Provide additional long-term supportive housing arrangements to enable a stable living environment for persons requiring continuing support services and for large families			
5.1: Develop 150 units for singles	\$1,665,710 (Cap) \$150,000 (Op)	\$1,985,383 (Cap) \$150,000 (Op)	\$1,015,710 (Cap) \$372,000 (Op)
5.2: Develop 50 units for persons with addictions		\$1,335,383 (Cap) \$ 154,000 (Op)	
5.3: Develop 100 units for large Aboriginal families		\$3,090,505 (Cap) \$37,500 (Op)	\$3,090,505 (Cap) \$37,500 (Op)
5.4: Develop 115 units for other families		\$927,766 (Cap)	\$5,337,260 (Cap) \$75,000 (Op)
<i>Continuum of Support Component 6:</i> Increase community awareness of the extent of homelessness, actions needed to implement a Continuum of Support to address the human conditions and systemic issues, and ways in which the community can help			
6.1: Develop and distribute materials	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
6.2: Release of Plan	\$10,000		

In addition, the Community Plan includes activities and budget for its administration

	Funding 2000/01	Funding 2001/02	Funding 2002/03
Administer implementation of the Plan			
7.1: Administration of the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing (including annual Plan review)	\$138,000	\$138,000	\$138,000
7.2: Three-year review			\$50,000
7.3: Administration of housing unit development process by Edmonton Housing Trust Fund	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Budget required	\$11,162,365	\$20,159,077	\$17,929,719
			\$49,251,161

FUNDING

Funding commitments

Edmonton will receive about \$22 million over the next three years under a variety of Government of Canada programs related to homelessness, the cornerstone of which is the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). The Government of Alberta has also allocated \$3 million under the Homelessness Implementation Strategy (AHIS). The City of Edmonton allocated nearly \$1.3 million annually. Other provincial funding arrangements plus private and charitable sources bring the available funds to \$28.6 million.

An additional \$20.7 million (including \$7.5 million for facility-based programs/operations) is required to meet the \$49.3 million budget established for 2000/2003. Sources of additional funds are anticipated to include various levels and programs of government as well as contributions from charitable organizations, corporations and individuals.

Sustainability

Sustainability will be ensured in several ways. The majority of funds (77%) are allocated to capital projects in the Edmonton Community Plan. With funds directed toward capital, mortgages are minimized and ongoing carrying costs are reduced. In addition, before a project is approved for capital, there must be evidence that operating costs can be managed.

Programs and services predominantly will be supported through existing government programs. This support will be coordinated through Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing which will solicit the funding commitments from the government levels involved. The Joint Planning Committee will also foster coordination of services that will enhance efficiency and sustainability.

IMPLEMENTATION

Community entity

The Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness will be administered by a two-pronged “community entity” made up of two community-based organizations with broad representation. Further detail on their mandates and memberships is included in the “Implementing the Plan” section of this report.

Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing – Develops and updates the Community Plan. Also solicits and coordinates the support services essential to the priority needs. Provides to the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund the Community Plan that sets priorities, estimates a budget and commits to support services required. The Joint Planning Committee performs its responsibilities through its standing committees which include: Aboriginal, Research, Community Plan, Advocacy/Communication/Public Awareness, and Performance Monitoring.

Edmonton Housing Trust Fund – Seeks donations, solicits project proposals, analyzes submissions and funds projects to address the priority needs as established in the Community Plan.

Ongoing and Formal Evaluation

The Community Plan is a “living document” that will be continually evaluated and adjusted.

By way of formal evaluation, the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing, in consultation with the broad-based Charette participants and others, will conduct an annual review of the progress achieved in carrying out the Community Plan. Adjustments required to meet changing circumstances may be proposed. The review will be provided to the federal and provincial governments and the City of Edmonton and will be available to the public. The Joint Planning Committee will also convene housing and service providers from time to time to share information.

A three-year review will provide a comprehensive review of success in meeting the objectives of the Community Plan and identify future activities required.

Communication

The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing will oversee public release of the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness. Release of the annual evaluation reports and three-year review will provide similar opportunities to profile homelessness issues.