



**Edmonton Joint Planning
Committee on Housing**



Review and Update
of the

EDMONTON COMMUNITY PLAN

On

HOMELESSNESS

2000 – 2003

April 2002

Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing

The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing prepared this *Review and Update* of the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness 2000-2003 through a community consultation process. Members of the sub-committee overseeing the process were:

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Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
PURPOSE OF UPDATE	3
• Progress	
• Current Situation	
• Key Themes From Feedback	
• Conclusions	
PLAN UPDATE.....	10
• Definitions	
• Funding Clarifications	
• Continuum of Support Review	
- Progress To Date	
- Focus For 2002-03	
PARTICIPANTS.....	22
• Aboriginal Gathering	
• Community Consultation	

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness, 2000-2003 (the Community Plan) was developed through a broad-based consultative process by the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing (EJPCOH) in the fall of 2000. This *Review and Update* is intended to:

1. Meet EJPCOH's commitment to consult with the community annually to review achievements and changing trends.
2. Validate or adjust the original housing and support service gaps identified in the Community Plan.

Progress – and Pressures

The Community Plan included the following statement: “Edmonton needs at least 5000 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...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.*”

Significant progress has been made towards implementing the interim recommendations of the Community Plan since it was published in November 2000. Together, the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, the Provincial Government, the City of Edmonton, front-line agencies, foundations and private donors have contributed more than \$36.8 million toward homelessness. As a result, 538 housing units (against a three-year target of 997 units) and a number of new programs and supports have been approved.

Although these projects and programs are significant, this review has revealed how the economic boom has accelerated the homelessness and affordable housing crisis in Edmonton in the following ways:

- lack of affordable rental housing creates pressure on the continuum of facilities providing emergency, transitional and long-term supportive housing,
- existing emergency and transitional facilities are housing people for increasingly longer periods,
- more and more people are resorting to sleeping in abandoned/derelict housing, vehicles, warehouses, garages or wandering the streets at night and sleeping at drop-in centres, malls and parkades during the day.

The lack of long-term funding for support programs and services is also preventing proposed projects from proceeding because they are not sustainable .

Conclusions

Input from an Aboriginal Gathering on Homelessness and community-wide consultations indicated the urgent need for EJPCOH and the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund to:

1. Continue to address the needs of the homeless identified in the Community Plan,
2. Focus advocacy efforts in:
 - addressing the increased pressures on homelessness and the need for affordable housing funding, and
 - addressing the need for increased funding for programming and operating to ensure projects are sustained.

During the remaining term of the Community Plan, EJPCOH will :

- Urge the community to respond to proposal calls by the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund for the use of remaining available funding to meet the most pressing needs. While priorities remain high in all areas, proposals that address the following are encouraged: emergency housing for families; emergency shelters for youth and individuals, some of whom may have mental health and substance abuse issues; transitional housing for youth; and long-term supportive housing for families.
- Encourage the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund to use flexibility and discretion in funding projects that meet the needs of the homeless in Edmonton. In order to address sustainability issues, EJPCOH encourages flexibility in the funding of capital costs of projects in order to free up available operating dollars for support services. It is also recognized that capital costs are now significantly higher than originally estimated in the Community Plan as a result of the recent economic boom.
- Advocate for increased programming and operating funding commitments from provincial government departments and seek innovative approaches for securing more dollars to ensure the sustainability of projects.
- Conduct an in-depth survey of homeless people and repeat the Edmonton homeless count in the coming year so that needs can be accurately reflected in the next Community Plan.
- Urge continuation of the federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative.
- Urge a go-ahead for the National Affordable Rental Housing Program for Alberta.
- Advocate for a dedicated source of funding for the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund.

PURPOSE OF UPDATE

The Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness 2000-2003 (the Community Plan) was developed through a broad-based consultative process by the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing in the fall of 2000 to guide efforts to address homelessness in Edmonton.

The Community Plan included the following statement: “Edmonton needs at least 5000 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...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.”

To implement the interim measures a two-pronged approach was taken involving joint efforts by the following community-based organizations:

- **Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing (EJPCOH)** whose mandate is to lead and co-ordinate efforts to meet the priority low-income and special housing and support needs of households and communities in Edmonton, and to prevent at-risk groups from becoming homeless – through strategic planning, establishing priorities, research, advocacy, evaluation and monitoring. EJPCOH writes and updates the Community Plan.
- **Edmonton Housing Trust Fund (EHTF)** which serves as the funding vehicle for the Community Plan by consolidating public, not-for-profit and private sector funding. The EHTF seeks donations, solicits project proposals, analyzes submissions and funds projects to address the identified priority needs.

This *Review and Update* is intended to:

1. Meet EJPCOH’s commitment to consult with the community annually to review achievements and changing trends.
2. Validate or adjust the original housing and support service gaps identified in the Community Plan.

In addition to ongoing input to EJPCOH and the EHTF, consultations took place at a February 19, 2002 Aboriginal Gathering on Homelessness and a February 26, 2002 community-wide consultation, both involving more than 150 participants in total. Input detailed needs, pressures, trends and achievements that form the basis for this review and update. The EHTF will use the revised information on housing/service gaps and the recommended focuses for 2002-03 in assessing projects and making future funding decisions.

PROGRESS

Together, the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, the Provincial Government, the City of Edmonton, foundations, private donors and the front-line agencies themselves have contributed more than \$36.8 million since the Community Plan was published in November 2000. As a result, 538 housing units (against a three-year target of 997 units) and a number of new programs and supports have been approved.

Funding has addressed the capital project gaps outlined in the Community Plan as follows:

Type of capital project	Gap identified in Plan	Approved	Approved units as percentage of original gap	Gap remaining compared to original Plan*
Emergency	247	106	43%	141*
Transitional	335	114	34%	221*
Long-term supportive	415	318	77%	97*
Total	997	538	54%	459**

*Current needs for the homeless in Edmonton are actually much larger than indicated through these figures. As described in the next sections of this report, a scan of the current situation and feedback from community consultations shows that pressures have increased and gaps are larger. The EJPCOH will conduct an in-depth survey of homeless people and repeat the Edmonton Homelessness Count in the coming year so that needs can be more accurately reflected in the next Community Plan.

The gaps identified are counted as units of housing and therefore may consist of either single or multiple spaces, depending on the project. For example, emergency shelter units refer to the number of new shelter beds approved, whereas transitional and long term supportive units may have a multiple number of beds available within each unit. Therefore, more people will receive housing than are indicated in the charts.

**Does not include 85 spaces at Salvation Army: Grace Manor for low income seniors; housing for low income seniors was identified as a gap in the Community Plan, however funding was not allocated to address this gap. The Salvation Army and their donors funded the 85 units.

Lists of the projects completed or approved since the Community Plan was published are included in the Plan Update section of this report.

CURRENT SITUATION

Although significant progress has been made toward addressing the gaps identified in the Community Plan, the recent economic boom has accelerated the homelessness and affordable housing crisis in the city.

The economic climate in Edmonton has changed dramatically since the release of the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness in November 2000. Alberta generally and Edmonton in particular is experiencing an economic boom that has added significant pressure on the homeless. Net in-migration has reached levels of over 10%, there has been a significant increase in cost of living (utilities, rent, food), vacancy rates have dropped dramatically and real estate prices in all market segments have risen significantly. High-end housing projects such as condominiums and lofts in the downtown area have taken most of the available stock, leaving little for conversions to address homelessness and affordable housing. Construction costs have also increased significantly since the Community Plan was published.

Indications are that, because landlords have a greater number of applicants to choose from, many low income and special needs clients are perceived as “less desirable” and are being forced out of the rental market into homelessness. Emergency shelter use has risen by 21 % in the past six months and experts anticipate this trend to continue.

The extreme lack of affordable rental housing is creating pressure on the continuum of facilities providing emergency, transitional and long-term supportive housing. As a result, existing emergency and transitional facilities are housing people for increasingly longer periods due to the lack of housing further along the continuum. With shelter space at a premium, it has been indicated that more and more people are resorting to sleeping in abandoned/derelict housing, vehicles, warehouses, garages or wandering the streets at night and sleeping at drop-in centres, malls and parkades during the day.

Continued emphasis must be placed on the continuum of support model, however the solution to complex social issues cannot be solved with any one type of service. Rather the community as a whole must look at the “big picture” and resources allocated accordingly. The continuum of support model encompasses services from the point of entry to affordable housing initiatives. It is only through the continued spirit of cooperation by all those who provide services and funding that Edmonton, as a community, will begin to solve the issue of homelessness.

KEY THEMES FROM FEEDBACK

Clear themes emerged from all input at the Aboriginal Gathering and the Community Consultation. Themes are:

- The need to re-evaluate funding assumptions, given that lack of sustainable program and operating funding from provincial government departments has prevented capital projects from being approved. Examples include a proposed family shelter, a proposed long-term supportive housing facility for people with mental health issues, and a proposed emergency shelter for persons with substance abuse.
- Affordable housing must be part of the continuum and needs concerted attention now. Homelessness and housing are inseparable.
- A lack of long-term supportive and affordable rental housing is causing the housing continuum to back-up so that emergency and transitional facilities are being used inappropriately as long-term solutions.
- Increased pressure on groups at risk is being caused by the recent economic boom in the community.
- The tight affordable rental market increases the potential for discrimination, use of unsafe/illegal housing, and abuse of tenant rights.
- The forecasted housing and programming gaps identified in the original Community Plan are under-represented in almost all areas but most significantly for mental health, substance abuse and the “unseen” homeless (youth, seniors, Aboriginal students, working poor, migrating workers).
- The amount of funding allocated for Aboriginal housing and service providers is perceived to not be in proportion to the number of homeless people in Edmonton who are Aboriginal.
- The Aboriginal community believes it needs to become more cohesive to effectively address homelessness within the community.
- Shifts in government policy and cutbacks to program funding (health care, children’s services, mental health) have increased the demand for homelessness programs and services.
- The need for clear definitions and consistent use of terms in the Community Plan.
- The need to encourage the private sector to get involved through development of innovative approaches to engage them.

These themes and all input guided the conclusions drawn in this report regarding the focus needed in further implementing the Community Plan, and future advocacy by EJPCOH.

CONCLUSIONS

Input from an Aboriginal Gathering on Homelessness and community-wide consultations indicated the urgent need for EJPCOH and the EHTF to:

1. Continue to address the needs of the homeless identified in the Community Plan,
2. Focus advocacy efforts in:
 - addressing the increased pressures on homelessness and the need for affordable housing funding,
 - addressing the need for increased funding for programming and operating to ensure projects are sustained.

1. Continue to address the needs of the homeless identified in the Community Plan

In 2002-03, the EJPCOH, EHTF and community agencies must work together to ensure that limited funding is spent as wisely as possible to fulfill the needs outlined in the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness 2000-2003.

The Plan Update section (starting on page 10) reviews progress to March 31, 2002 and outlines the focus for 2002-03 for each of the steps in the Continuum of Support concept upon which the Plan is based. A brief summary of the focus for 2002-03 follows:

Continuum of Support component 1: Needs identification and connection

- Continued attention on cooperation among service providers.
- Determination of changes to the master directory and database project in keeping with results of the feasibility study that showed it should not proceed as originally envisioned.

Continuum of Support component 2: Supportive and preventative services

- Advocacy for increased funding and stimulation of innovative approaches to funding.
- Encourage continuation of work by the Tribal Chiefs Venture in orienting young Aboriginal youth to life in the city.

Continuum of Support component 3: Emergency housing

- Need continues to be high to ensure that sufficient emergency shelter beds are available to meet demand.
- Emphasis on emergency needs of families, youth (ages 15-30) and individuals, some with mental health and substance abuse issues.
- Priority on obtaining operational funding for family shelter.
- Research needs of seniors.

Continuum of Support component 4: Transitional housing

- Gaps continue to exist and need to be filled.
- Emphasis on needs of youth because limited projects have been approved to date.

Continuum of Support component 5: Long-term supportive housing

- Attention required for needed projects and for advocacy for improved support and operating funding.
- High importance on accommodation for families, including Aboriginal families.

- Research needs of seniors.

Continuum of Support component 6: Community awareness

- Development of comprehensive communication strategy to increase awareness of homelessness and support for further action.
- EJPCOH advocacy on the National Affordable Rental Housing Program, Task Force on Affordable Housing and continuation of the federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative.

7. Administration

- EJPCOH will engage a permanent administrator early in 2002-03.
- EJPCOH will prepare for the three-year final evaluation of the Community Plan; an in-depth survey and update of the homeless count will be conducted.
- EHTF will assess projects on an ongoing basis and provide assistance for proposal development.

2. Focus advocacy efforts

Feedback from the community strongly emphasized the need for advocacy about homeless and housing issues in two specific areas:

- addressing increased pressures on homelessness (as outlined on page 5) and the need for affordable housing funding, and
- the need for increased funding for programming and operating to ensure projects are sustained.

Addressing increased pressures

Although the original Community Plan recognized the importance of affordable housing to the homeless continuum, it did not address solutions because of funding limitations. The focus of future community plans will be broadened to include affordable housing and to ensure that today's real needs are met in the future.

In this regard the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing commits to:

- Strongly advocate for the signing and implementation of the National Affordable Rental Housing Program for Alberta between the federal and provincial governments. This program must address the upper end of the homeless continuum, and not the lower end of the normal housing market.
- Work to define and quantify affordable housing needs and priorities in Edmonton in the context of the National Affordable Rental Housing Program.
- Contribute to the City of Edmonton's Task Force on Affordable Housing, through participation by the Chair of EJPCOH.
- Begin preparing for the three-year final evaluation of the Community Plan and the development of a new long-term plan. This will include gathering of data (through in-depth survey and homeless count) and fostering of innovation required to project the plan well into the future.

- Advocate for continuation or expansion of the federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative program beyond its planned 2003 end.
- In partnership with the EHTF, advocate for a dedicated source of funding to address homelessness and affordable housing.

Increasing sustainability funding

During the consultations into this review and update, the community spoke strongly about the significant negative effects of the lack of programming and operating funding on measures proposed in the Community Plan. Both types of funding must be available before a capital project can be approved under the funding requirements the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund must impose. Lack of such funding – required to sustain a project – has hindered the approval of a number of proposed capital projects, as outlined in a previous section of this report.

In this regard, the EJPCOH commits to advocate for increased funding commitments from provincial government departments and to seek innovative approaches for procuring programming and operating dollars from other sources.

PLAN UPDATE

DEFINITIONS

Feedback from the community indicated that clear definitions and the consistent use of terms are required when referring to the Community Plan. Therefore, EJPCOH has confirmed the following definitions:

Homeless:

An individual or family is considered homeless if:

- The individual or family has no residence at all and is living on the streets; or
- The individual or family is living in any premises which is not intended or suitable as a permanent residence; or
- The individual or family is at risk of becoming homeless
 - (a) through losing their residence, or
 - (b) through being discharged from an institution/facility and has nowhere to go, or
 - (c) through loss of income support.

Emergency shelters:

Emergency shelters provide temporary, typically overnight accommodation to individuals who would otherwise sleep in the streets. They are not intended to be regular residences. Shelters may also provide supportive services in relation to addictions, health, education and employment needs.

Transitional housing:

Transitional housing typically provides temporary accommodation (up to three years) to individuals who wish to stabilize their housing situation while resolving other issues in their lives, such as unemployment, addictions, education and violence. Individuals in transitional housing have access to a mix of supportive services that would enable them to move towards self-sufficiency and independent living. They often also receive some direct funding.

Long-term supportive (special needs) housing:

Long-term supportive housing typically provides long-term accommodation, with a support component, to allow people to live as independently as possible. The housing providers, whether public, private or non-profit, receive funding to provide the support services to the residents, who often also receive some direct funding.

Subsidized (social) housing:

Subsidized housing provides accommodation to very low-income households capable of independent living, without support services. On-going subsidies (either to publicly owned operators or non-profit housing corporations, or to private landlords through the Rent Supplement Program) enable rents to be provided on a “geared-to-income” basis.

Affordable housing*:

Affordable housing provides permanent accommodation to low income individuals and families who earn less than the median income and spend more than 30% of their income on housing. Typically individuals who live in affordable housing do not require on-going support services or housing subsidies.

Support programs and services:

Programs and services provided to individuals to assist them in addressing issues in their lives such as, but not limited to, unemployment, addictions, mental health, education and violence. Support programs may typically provide life skills assistance, counseling and/or treatment that has the potential to lead to independence and self-sufficiency. Support programs and services are also provided to assist individuals who cannot live independently and require non-housing support services such as meals and housekeeping.

Operating costs:

Operating costs include the non-support expenses involved in running a housing facility. This would include such ongoing costs as (depending on the type of housing) food services, utilities, janitorial services, insurance, debt financing, laundry, yard upkeep, plumbing and building maintenance.

“Unseen” homeless:

Individuals or families who are living in undesirable conditions, such as abandoned/derelict housing, warehouses, vehicles, or rotating among friends’ couches. These people are generally missed in surveys or counts of the homeless.

Youth:

Any individual who is between the ages of 15 and 30. This definition is consistent with the eligibility criteria of the federal government’s Youth Employment Strategy.

*While affordable housing forms an integral part of the Continuum of Support concept in the Community Plan, funding for affordable housing units cannot be accessed through the current mandate of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund.

FUNDING CLARIFICATIONS

When reviewing the progress achieved to date in addressing the gaps identified in the Community Plan, the following funding clarifications are provided:

- All projects are reviewed by the EHTF to confirm they meet the needs or gaps outlined in the Community Plan. Approved projects are funded by either the EHTF, or the Government of Canada's Urban Aboriginal Strategy or Youth at Risk – Homelessness programs, or a combination.
- The Aboriginal community's needs are being served through all projects funded by the EHTF, given that a significant proportion of the homeless population is Aboriginal. In addition, the federal Urban Aboriginal Strategy provides funding to support projects proposed by Aboriginal-run agencies.
- EJPCOH recognizes that construction costs have increased significantly since the Community Plan was published. New construction is also needed to a greater extent than originally forecast because of the limited available housing stock for conversions. As a result, per unit costs for capital projects have risen and are expected to be reflected in project proposals.

CONTINUUM OF SUPPORT REVIEW

This section of the Review and Update examines each step of the Continuum of Support concept upon which the original Community Plan is based. The concept reflects an integrated approach that focuses on the needs of homeless individuals and families, and is designed to help them progress to as much independence as possible. For each step in the Continuum of Support, the section below outlines progress to March 31, 2002 and the focus for 2002-03.

Continuum of Support component 1: Needs Identification and Connection

(Coordinate identification of needs and connect the homeless to facilities and services.)

Progress to Date

- EJPCOH commissioned an external consultant to determine the feasibility of developing a computerized master directory of services and database on demographics and use of services by the homeless, as identified in the Community Plan. Feedback received through the feasibility study and the Plan review process indicates that, while there may be some specific needs for a database, the cost of developing and maintaining this part of the original concept may be prohibitive. Many suggest available funding may be better directed to addressing specific housing gaps. A computerized master directory of services appears to be feasible.
- Cooperation among service providers has been encouraged to ensure homeless individuals have access to all available information about programs and services. The Aboriginal community conducted a Partnership Forum following the February Gathering to encourage discussion and partnerships among service providers.
- A proposal has been approved to develop and deliver a cultural awareness program for agencies that assist homeless Aboriginal individuals and families.
- The EHTF is now participating with the provincial government's Senior Officials Committee on Homelessness. The committee was established among key provincial departments with funding relating to homelessness, to coordinate provincial funding for homelessness. Departments involved include Alberta Seniors, Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Alberta Children's Services, Alberta Health and Wellness, Alberta Justice, Alberta Gaming, the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and the Alberta Mental Health Board.

Focus for 2002-03

- EJPCOH maintains its support for the activities identified for this component.
- EJPCOH will review the results of the directory/database feasibility study and make a determination on this issue in early 2002-03.
- Cooperation among service providers will continue to be encouraged and supported.

Continuum of Support component 2: Supportive and Preventative Services
(Provide appropriate preventative and support services for the homeless.)

Progress to Date

- Native Counselling Services of Alberta - received funding to support Aboriginal individuals leaving correctional institutions.
- Inner City Youth Development Association - received funding to provide program support for homeless Youth at Risk.
- The Family Shelter Network, a partnership of the Boyle Street Community Services Cooperative and the Bissell Centre - received funding to assist homeless families affected by the critical shortage of safe, affordable, and appropriate housing.
- Boyle Street Co-op - received funding to provide urgent program supports for homeless youth.
- Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation - received funding to provide program support for the emergency and transitional housing units (16) developed for individuals wishing to leave the sex trade and/or who are trans-gendered.
- Our House - funding for an outreach worker to assist individuals in their integration back into the community after their recovery from addictions.

Focus for 2002-03

- EJPCOH continues to view preventative and support services for the homeless as an essential component of the continuum of support model. Projects that provide these services have been hindered by the lack of sustainable program dollars. EJPCOH will continue to advocate for increased provincial government funding commitments and to seek innovative approaches for increasing availability of funding for supportive and preventative programs.
- EJPCOH will monitor the results of the review of the Supports for Independence and Rent Geared to Income policies and take the appropriate action as it relates to the Plan.
- EJPCOH encourages continuation of work by the Tribal Chiefs Venture in orienting young Aboriginal persons to cultural differences of life in the city.

Capital Projects – Emergency, Transitional and Long-Term Supportive Housing (Continuum of Support components 3, 4, 5)

In the following sections, gaps are identified in all areas and need is significant throughout. A short-term solution – and therefore a necessary priority – is to ensure that everyone has a place to sleep, and that sufficient emergency shelter beds are available. Of equal importance is the movement toward a long-term solution, involving long-term supportive and affordable housing. Additions to long-term supportive housing are seen to be necessary to ease the pressure on emergency and transitional facilities. There is a critical need for affordable rental housing, but funding is not available currently. Funding commitments for support and operations also are essential for projects to be sustainable and to proceed.

Continuum of Support component 3: Emergency Housing

(Provide additional emergency accommodation as a safe, healthy, alternative to the streets)

Progress to Date – projects approved

- Urban Manor Housing Society – new emergency shelter to accommodate 75 of Edmonton’s hardest to house individuals. It is recognized that this project will provide long term housing for a large number of its residents.
- Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation – relocation and renovation of two surplus Department of National Defense houses to the inner city which will assist up to 8 individuals wishing to leave the sex trade and/or who are trans-gendered.
- Hope Mission Society – purchase of bunk bed units and mattresses to increase the capacity of the Herb Jamieson Centre by 23 spaces.
- Herb Jamieson Centre and the Women’s Emergency Accommodation Centre -- created 104 temporary spaces for emergency weather conditions (with provincial funding support).
- George Spady Centre - temporary funding of 3 additional support workers to increase space by 12 mats.

Update of Gap

Type of capital project	Gap identified in Plan	Approved units	Approved units as percentage of original gap	Gap remaining compared to original Plan
Emergency	247	106*	43%	141

*Permanent shelter space approved. Does not include the temporary spaces funded in 2001/02.

Focus for 2002-03

- EJPCOH recognizes that the need continues to be high to ensure that sufficient shelter beds are available to meet the demand for emergency housing. This area remains a high priority.
- A priority will be to obtain operational funding to ensure sustainability for much-needed family shelter projects.
- Projects addressing the emergency needs of youth (ages 15-30) and individuals, some with mental health and substance abuse issues are needed.
- EJPCOH will undertake more research to determine the emergency needs of seniors so projects that address the specific needs of this group can be encouraged.

Continuum of Support component 4: Transitional Housing

(Provide additional transitional accommodation to enable a stable living environment while counselling and/or treatment is being undertaken.)

Progress to Date – projects approved

- Aboriginal Partners & Youth Society – purchase of two apartment buildings to house 31 Aboriginal Youth participating in programming provided by the sponsor group.
- Salvation Army – purchase of 15 housing units to accommodate up to 27 persons recovering from addictions.
- Amisk Housing Association – 20 transitional units for up to 55 aboriginal pregnant teens, women fleeing violence and seniors.
- W.I.N.G.S. of Providence – three-story apartment building for up to 20 women and children fleeing violence.
- Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation - construction of 2 duplexes to assist 8 individuals wishing to leave the sex trade and/or who are trans-gendered.
- 1 project has been approved, but not announced as of March 31, 2002, which will provide 20 units of housing for women wishing to be reunited with their children.

Update of Gap

Type of capital project	Gap identified in Plan	Approved units	Approved units as percentage of original gap	Gap remaining compared to original Plan
Transitional	335	114*	34%	221

*A number of the units have multiple bed space; therefore a greater number of people have received housing than is indicated.

Focus for 2002-03

- Although some specific needs in transitional housing have been addressed since the publication of the Community Plan, EJPCOH recognizes that a significant gap continues to exist. Because there have been limited projects approved for youth to date, applications that address this need will be particularly encouraged in 2002-03.

Continuum of Support component 5: Long-Term Supportive Housing

(Provide additional long-term supportive housing arrangements to enable a stable living environment for persons requiring continuing support services and for large families.)

Progress to Date – projects approved

- Edmonton Inner City Housing Society – construct 25-unit apartment building for singles.
- Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta – develop multi-unit complex to house 56 very low-income households, half which will be accessible for people with mobility issues and the other half adapted for the needs of people in wheelchairs.
- People in Need Shelter Society – construct 23-unit apartment building to accommodate single men and women, 10 units of which will be handicapped accessible.
- Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation – renovate commercial space into a 10-unit apartment building.
- Amisk Housing Association - purchase ten duplex units to provide long-term supportive housing for up to 24 Aboriginal persons.
- Amisk Housing Association - construct a 4 plex and a duplex to provide long term supportive housing to homeless Aboriginal families (up to 36 individuals).
- Oxford House - purchase of six houses to accommodate 30 persons recovering from addictions.
- Salvation Army: Grace Manor - construct a new facility to accommodate up to 15 persons between the ages of 55 and 65 living on Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (A.I.S.H.). The facility will also accommodate 85 low income seniors over 65 years of age.
- Greater Edmonton Foundation for Seniors – renovate existing facility that will assist 30 individuals who face mental disabilities.
- Greater Edmonton Foundation for Seniors – renovate 17 units in a senior’s apartment building to provide housing for seniors with developmental disabilities.
- 2 projects have been approved, but not announced as of March 31, 2002, which will provide 96 units of housing for persons with mental health issues.

Update of Gap

Type of capital project	Gap identified in Plan	Approved units	Approved units as percentage of original gap	Gap remaining compared to original Plan
Long-term supportive	415	318*	77%	97

*A number of units have multiple bed space, therefore more individuals have received housing than indicated.

This does not include an additional 85 units at Grace Manor which will accommodate low income seniors; housing for low income seniors was identified as a gap in the Community Plan, however funding was not allocated to address this gap. The Salvation Army and their donors funded the 85 units.

Focus for 2002-03

- Long-term supportive housing continues to be an area of great concern. Although some progress has been made in adding additional units to the inventory, the lack of sufficient accommodation in this area has caused the housing continuum to back up, resulting in emergency and transitional facilities being used as long-term solutions. The lack of sustainable program dollars to provide the support required by residents of these types of facilities is a major factor contributing to this gap.
- EJPCOH will continue to advocate for increased provincial government funding and seek innovative approaches for procuring program and operating dollars needed to ensure the approval and sustainability of long-term supportive projects.
- EJPCOH strongly encourages proposals to address the gaps in this area. If more gaps in this area are addressed, it is hoped that pressure will be relieved at the emergency and transitional levels.
- While recognizing that gaps remain in all areas of long-term supportive housing, accommodation for families, including Aboriginal families, is of high importance in 2002-03.
- EJPCOH is committed to undertake more research to determine the long-term supportive needs of seniors so projects can be encouraged that address the specific needs of this group.

Continuum of Support component 6: Community Awareness

(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.)

Progress to Date

- This update to the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness has been distributed to all attendees to the February 2002 community consultation and Aboriginal Gathering, all three levels of government and other interested parties. In addition, it has been posted on the EHTF website at www.ehtf.ca.
- EJPCOH is mandated to improve community awareness of housing and housing related issues and accomplishments in Edmonton. It is also facilitating partnerships by providing support in bringing organizations together to address specific housing and homelessness projects.
- In February 2002, EJPCOH organized a bus trip to Calgary to provide a forum for Edmonton service providers and stakeholders to meet with their counterparts in Calgary and to view initiatives undertaken there to address homelessness and housing issues. Input from participants will also contribute to the development of a comprehensive communications strategy being prepared by EJPCOH on the homelessness issue in Edmonton.
- Bear Paw Video Productions was funded to produce a homelessness awareness video entitled "Life on the Streets."

Focus for 2002-03

- EJPCOH will approve and begin implementing its comprehensive communications strategy in 2002.
- Advocacy strategies will include:
 - Strong advocacy for implementation of the National Affordable Rental Housing Program for Alberta between the federal and provincial governments. This program must address the upper end of the homeless continuum, and not the lower end of the normal housing market.
 - Input to the City of Edmonton's Task Force on Affordable Housing.
 - Urging continuation or expansion of the federal Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative beyond its planned 2003 end.

7. Administration

(Administer implementation of the plan.)

Progress to Date

- Since publication of the Community Plan on Homelessness, the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing completed a review of its mandate and membership. As a result, EJPCOH is now structured to reflect broad-based representation of the community and has become the primary organization in Edmonton for needs analysis, planning and priority setting, and coordinating initiatives addressing homelessness and affordable housing issues. Through the work of standing and ad hoc committees, EJPCOH strives to meet its mandate: “To lead and coordinate efforts to meet the priority low-income and special housing and support needs of households and communities in Edmonton, and to prevent at-risk groups from becoming homeless - through strategic planning, establishing priorities, research, advocacy, evaluation and monitoring.”
- This update to the Community Plan reflects EJPCOH’s commitment to consult with the community on an annual basis and to report on achievements in addressing the Plan. An Aboriginal Gathering and a broad-based community consultation were held in February 2002 to receive community feedback on the progress achieved to date and changing trends.
- The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund continues to seek donations, solicit project proposals, analyze submissions, and fund projects to address the priority needs as established in the Community Plan. As of March 31, 2002, the EHTF has approved \$14.7 million funding for over 20 projects valued at \$33.5 million. The EHTF also entered into an agreement with an external consultant to assist community organizations in developing their project proposals.

Focus for 2002-03

- EJPCOH will engage a permanent administrator early in 2002-03.
- EJPCOH will begin preparing for a three-year final evaluation of the Plan to provide a comprehensive review of the success in meeting the objectives of the Plan and to identify required future activities. The process will include an in-depth survey of the homeless and an updated count of the homeless.
- EJPCOH will work to define and quantify affordable housing needs and priorities in Edmonton and to provide input to the National Affordable Rental Housing Program.
- EJPCOH will discuss with the EHTF the feasibility of creating a Funders Table to enhance community fund-raising.
- EJPCOH will, in partnership with the EHTF, advocate for a dedicated source of funding to address homelessness and affordable housing.
- EHTF will assess projects on an ongoing basis in the final year of the Plan, to approve priority projects as efficiently as possible and to ensure projects funded under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative are completed by September 2003, as required by the federal agreement.

PARTICIPANTS

Aboriginal Gathering on Homelessness - February 19, 2002

Community Consultation - February 26, 2002

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Ron Allen	People in Need Society
Chris Anderson	School of Native Studies
Reg Appleyard	Meadowcroft Housing Corporation
Anita Archambault	Native Friendship Centre
Hilda-Klara Banda	Youth Emergency Shelter Society
Kathy Barnhart	City of Edmonton
Dr. James Battle	Battle & Associates
Perla Ben-Zwei	Canadian Mental Health
Loretta Bertol	Alberta Seniors
Jeannie Bodnaruk	Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre
Victor Botari	Boyle Street Co-op
Anna Bubel	Another Way
Mel Buffalo	Amisk Housing Association
Lewis Cardinal	Native Student Services - University of Alberta
Rosalie Cardinal	Edmonton Public School Board
Lorraine Chaput	Our House
Derek Chewka	Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Edmonton
Terry Chicoine	Canadian Red Cross
Claire Clark	Claire Clark & Associates
Shannon Clark	Youth Emergency Shelter Society
Tim Collins	Metis Urban Housing
Muriel Cooper	Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre
Don Cummings & Staff	Turnkey Management Consulting
Anna D'Agostini	Edmonton Home Builders Association
Tony Desjardins	
Sundari Devam	Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation
Faye Dewar	Boyle Street Co-op
Surinder Dhaliwal	Multicultural Health Brokers
Theresa Donovan	Inner City Youth Housing Project
Michael Drapaka	Daytona Homes
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Gaye Faith	Sutton Group
Denise Fayant	Metis Urban Housing Corporation of Alberta
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Dave Francis	
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Lorette Garrick	George Spady Centre
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Rita Gibbs	Boyle Street Co-op
Karen Gingras	Community Loan Fund
Marilyn Gladue	Metis Urban Housing Corporation of Alberta
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Gary Gordon	City of Edmonton
Jim Gurnett	Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
Avril Grier	Bissell Centre
Pamela Haigh	Institute for Advancement of Aboriginal Women
Grace Half	Institute for Advancement of Aboriginal Women
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Bernadette Iahtail	Terra Association
Rafique Islam	Metis Nations of Alberta
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Ata Khan	Alberta Municipal Affairs
Joanne Kidd	Canadian Mental Health
Cheryl Klassen	Partners for Kids and Youth
Evelyn Kohlman	Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission
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Donna Leask	Edmonton Public Schools
Robert Lee	Metis Regional Council IV
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Jerry Letendre	Metis Nation of Alberta - Zone 4

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Aboriginal Gathering on Homelessness - February 19, 2002

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Jackie Mah	Edmonton John Howard Society
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David Macelveen	Boardwalk Properties
Rev. Don McLean	Quality of Life Commission
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Marg Milicevic	Native Counselling Services of Alberta
Anne Milne	Government of Canada
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Karen Modershead	Terra Association
Allen Morin	Native Counselling Services of Alberta
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Sheila Nelson	Human Resources Development Canada
Lina Ng	Alberta Mental Health Board
Hai Nguyen	Canadian Heritage
Oleh Niniowsky	Daytona Homes
Herta Ogertschnig	Social Housing Advisory Committee
Terry Olenick	Correctional Services
Gina Oliveira	Inner City Youth Housing Project
Sue Olsen	Metis Nation of Alberta
Melanie Omeniho	Metis Regional Council IV
Richard Ouelett	Ma'mowe Capital Region Child & Family Services
Alice Papineau	Oteenow Employment Centre
Gayleen Patco	West Invest Equities
Tamie Perryment	Ben Calf Robe Society
Rita Pyke	Social Housing Advisory Committee
Karen Ramsey	Old Strathcona Youth Co-op
Bruce Reith	Hope Mission
James Richardson	Edmonton Housing Trust Fund
Peggy Richardson	Red Road Healing Society
Peggy Roberts	Canadian Mortgage & Housing Corporation
Murray Robson	Recovery Acres
Doris Ronnenberg	Native Council of Canada (Alberta)
Jim Sabory	Boyle McCauley Health Centre
Debbie Saidman	Edmonton Housing Trust Fund
Gordy Saulteaux	Amisk Housing Association
Major Larry Scarbeau	Salvation Army
Bernice Sewell	Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired
Lillian Shirt	Native Council of Canada (Alberta)
Colin Simpson	Schizophrenia Society

PARTICIPANTS

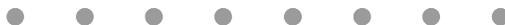
Aboriginal Gathering on Homelessness - February 19, 2002

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Mary Sullivan	Family Shelter Network
Terri Taylor	tt Communication
Diane Thordarson	ACES
Cst. Elvin Toy	Edmonton Police Services
Eric Vanmeurs	YMCA
George Vass	Apeetogosan (Metis) Development
Heidi Veluw	Provincial Coalition on Affordable Housing
Nikk Watts	West Invest Equities
Bob Whyte	Poverty in Action
Lawrence Willier	Amisk Housing Association
Georgina Woodward	Nechi Training, Research & Health Promotion Inst.
Jane Woodward	
Jackie Zuk	Human Resources Development Canada



**Edmonton Joint Planning
Committee on Housing**



*THE EDMONTON JOINT PLANNING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING (EJPCOH)
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