

Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014–2019

Community: *Grande Prairie*

Region: *Alberta*

The plan has been approved by Canada for implementation.
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As this Designated Community's allocation is under \$200,000, the community is encouraged, but not required to commit to move to a Housing First approach.

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Current Situation: Establishing your Baseline Data

Data

Please report on your current situation based on the following indicators. All CABs should review their progress annually against these indicators. This review will form part of the annual update. **Note: Although this data is not required at this time, data for 2013 will be required as part of the first annual update.**

1. Number of unique individuals who used an emergency homeless shelter in the twelve month period between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012	
2. Number of shelter users who were chronically homeless in 2012	
3. Number of shelter users who were episodically homelessness in 2012	
4. Number of homeless veterans who used an emergency homeless shelter in 2012.	
5. Estimated number of homeless veterans who were chronically or episodically homeless in 2012.	
6. Number of homeless individuals identified during the latest point in time count (if available)	
7. Date count was undertaken	December 11, 2012

Community Advisory Board Membership

1. Name of the Community Advisory Board: Community Advisory Board on Homelessness

2. Number of members in your CAB: 15

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
Meck	Vi	Alberta Health Services	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment - Aboriginal	Chair	No
Simmons	Adrea	Alberta Health Services	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No
Manning	Jane		- Other: Interagency Council on Homelessness	Ex-officio member	No
Laing	Donelda	City of Grande Prairie Community Social Development	- Other: Community Entity Representative	Ex-officio member	No
Sheppard	Katherine	City of Grande Prairie	- Other: Community Entity Representative	Ex-officio member	No
Mathias	Travis	Alberta Health Services	- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No
Chapman	Lynn	Alberta Works	- Income supports	Ex-officio member	No
Moon	Erna		- Youth	Member	No
Lemay	Paul	Seniors Council on Aging	- Other: Seniors	Member	No
Margarit	Michelle		- Other: Newcomers and Francophone Populations	Member	No
de Groot	Mieke		- Other: Persons with Disabilities	Member	No
Peters	Angie		- Landlord associations	Member	No
Normington	Debbie	Grande Spirit Foundation	- Housing and social housing	Member	No

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
Sinclair	Elaine	Service Canada Senior Development Officer	- Other: Resource Member	Ex-officio member	No
Gluckie	Laurene	Family Violence Prevention and Homeless Support Division	- Other: Government of Alberta Resource Member	Member	No

3. Are there any sectors or organizations the CAB needs to include in the future to more fully represent your community? (for example, Provincial or Territorial representatives responsible for housing and/or mental health, landlord organizations, people with lived experience, police, corrections, health and health promotions (including the Health Authority), income supports, other funders, addictions treatment)

Yes

Please identify the sectors or organizations and describe how they will be engaged.

Faith based communities

Planning and Reporting

Your Planning Process

1. Stakeholder Engagement

- a. Who and how did the CAB consult in your community as you prepared this Community Plan? Please include information about the approach you took and the extent of your consultations.**

Four Community Consultations were held in the Community as well as face to face discussions with people with lived experience. Invitations were sent out to specific population groups and for the community-wide consultation a media release advertised the date and time as well. 137 people were involved in the consultations and through facilitated discussions, successes, challenges, and priorities were identified. A summary report of the consultations is available upon request. Consultations held: Housing First funded agency consultation Youth consultation Aboriginal consultation Community Consultation People with lived experience survey

- b. How is the CAB working with the Aboriginal sector and/or local Aboriginal CAB to identify and implement Aboriginal homelessness priorities?**

Aboriginal representation on the CAB. A consultation was held in conjunction with the Grande Prairie Aboriginal Circle of Services (GAPOS) to identify Aboriginal homeless priorities. CAB members sit on the GAPOS committee. An annual Homeless Connect day is held at the Grande Prairie Friendship Center in conjunction with community service providers and the Community Entity.

2. Other Related Strategies and Programs

- a. In this section, you will identify and describe the federal, provincial, territorial, or local strategies, programs (other than HPS) which fund activities in your community that you are aware of, related to your homelessness strategy.**

How many have you identified? 3

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
Alberta Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness Outreach and support services initiative (OSSI) funding	- Social integration
City of Grande Prairie's Multi-Year Plan to End Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Rent supplements - Mental health - Addictions - Social integration
Alberta Government Rent Supplement Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Rent supplements

- b. Does your Province or Territory have a plan or strategic direction to address homelessness, poverty, housing, or another related issue?**

Yes

How does your HPS Community Plan complement Provincial or Territorial direction in this area?

Completely aligns

Please explain.

The HPS Community Plan aligns with the provincial direction of using a Housing First approach to ending homelessness. It complements the provincial direction by addressing chronic, episodic as well as at risk individuals to ensure that the appropriate service and resources are available.

3. Community Contribution

As part of the eligibility for HPS Designated Community funding, each community must be able to demonstrate that it has mobilized funding partners to contribute to its homelessness efforts.

- **Your community must show that it can identify \$1 contributing to your homelessness efforts from other sources for every dollar in your Designated Community allocation.**
 - **The community contribution can include funding from any partner other than HPS such as: governments (Federal, Provincial/Territorial or Municipal/Regional); public institutions, such as hospitals, schools or universities; aboriginal organizations; private sector organizations; and not-for-profit/charitable sector organizations, such as foundations or the United Way.**
 - **If an organization is contributing (financial or in-kind) to more than one activity, you may combine all the amounts received and enter the information once.**
- **The Community Entity (CE) will be required to report annually on the actual amount received.**

You will be asked to provide this information during the annual update. At this time, we need information about your community contribution for 2014-2015.

- a. **How many funders have you identified? 2**

Name of Funder	Type of Funder	Contact Information		Financial Contribution (dollars)	Non-Financial Contribution (Estimate in Dollars)	Total Contribution (Dollars)
		Contact Person	(E-mail or Phone Number)			
Alberta Government, Ministry of Human Services	Province/Territory	Christa Gilroy	Christa.Gilroy@gov.ab.ca	2,362,000	0	2,362,000
City of Grande Prairie	Municipality	Donelda Laing	dlaing@cityofgp.com	95,000	5,000	100,000
Total Community Contribution (dollars)						\$2,462,000
HPS Designated Communities Funding Stream allocation (dollars)						\$170,056

Reporting

The Community Advisory Board is expected to report to its funder (Employment and Social Development Canada), its stakeholders and the broader community on what it is doing and the progress the community is making in reducing homelessness.

The HPS was renewed with a commitment to using a Housing First approach and demonstrate reductions in homelessness. The collection of data and results will be critical to this change. As part of your community planning process, you will set priorities and select activities. Projects should lead to results that contribute to reductions in homelessness. The HPS has identified specific results that it will be collecting through Results Reporting, but the CAB and CE should also be working together to identify other results they would like to gather.

Your Priorities

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
To reduce homelessness through a Housing First (HF) approach*	100% DC	0 % DC	0 % DC	0 % DC	0 % DC	% of HF Funds by activity selected (Related to 2014-2015 only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100%: Accessing Services through case management †† 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of individuals that will be placed in housing through and HF intervention: 0 ● Percentage of HF clients who will remain housed at six months: 90% ● Percentage of HF clients who will remain housed at twelve months: 85% ● Number of days for HF clients to move into permanent housing after intake: 0 ● Percentage of HF clients who will be rehoused:

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	-	-	-	-	-		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
							15% ● Percentage of HF clients who will return to homelessness: 5% ● Percentage of HF clients who will successfully exit the program to a positive housing situation: 20%
To improve the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and those at imminent risk of homelessness through individualized services[†]	0% DC	100% DC	100% DC	100% DC	100% DC	Culturally relevant responses to help Aboriginal clients	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
						Housing loss prevention (only for individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness)	99 people will remain housed at three months after receiving a housing loss prevention intervention.
						Basic or urgent needs services	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in:					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
To preserve or increase the capacity of facilities used to address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.	0 % DC	0 % DC	0 % DC	0 % DC	0 % DC		
To ensure coordination of resources and leveraging	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		
To improve data collection and use	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		

Notes:

- * **The Housing First model includes both housing and access to supports primarily for chronically and episodically homeless individuals. The services provided are offered through an integrated approach**

and are interdependent. Generally, the approach will be to ensure that Housing First clients have access to all the existing services required.

⁺⁺ Accessing services through case management include the following activities:

- Coordination of a case management team
- Peer Support
- Working with clients to set goals
- Identifying a strategy for reaching the goals
- Connecting clients to services needed to reach the client's goal
- Monitoring progress
- Support services to improve the self-sufficiency of chronically and episodically homeless individuals and families in the Housing First program through individualized services, including: connecting clients to income supports; pre-employment support, and bridging to the labour market; life skills development (e.g. budgeting, cooking); supports to improve clients' social integration; and culturally relevant responses to help Aboriginal clients; and connecting clients to education and supporting success

[†] These services are offered primarily to individuals who are homeless or imminently at risk that are not part of the Housing First program.

Results

With renewal, the HPS is increasing the focus on achieving results. All projects are expected to contribute to reducing or preventing homelessness and CABs and CEs should be working together to determine how they will measure project success. The HPS has identified a number of indicators it will be using to measure the success of the HPS at reducing and preventing homelessness.

Description of your Priorities

Housing First (HF) Priority

Rationale

Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.

Housing first is a priority in the first year of the community plan as the need has been identified for permanent supports housing (PSH) for chronic and episodically homeless individuals. The identified need is for people with mental health, addictions, FASD, and issues such as hoarding to have longer term support than the 12-18 months available through the provincial OSSI funded programs. Housing first has been identified in the Alberta 10 year plan to end homelessness, and currently our city has 3 housing first case management teams working with chronic and episodically homeless. The gap has been a lack of permanent supportive housing teams in one building with evening and weekend support.

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

- **HF Readiness**

Alberta Works has designated two Career and Employment counsellors to the Homeless Initiatives and provide quick access for income supports and needs assessments.

- **Client Intake & Assessment**

The provincial OSSI initiative, funds a Centralized Intake and Assessment team that provides one point of service for assessment, for housing and support needs for people experiencing homelessness or who are at imminent risk of being homeless.

- **Connecting to and Maintaining Permanent Housing**

The Grande Spirit Foundation in the city has 61 family housing units for direct rental as social housing and an additional 427 rental supplements within the municipality. Housing first clients have equal opportunity to apply when a housing unit or subsidy comes available. The current stock of affordable housing options in the municipality is 447 units. 64 new units came on stream in 2014.

- **Accessing Services**

3 Housing First teams are funded through provincial OSSI funding. A team consists of one team lead and 3-4 case managers. One team is a Rapid Re-

housing team (3-4 months) and two are Intensive Case Management teams (12-18 months).

- **Data, Tracking & Monitoring**

Provincially, data is tracked through a data system called Efforts to Outcomes. The homeless shelter and youth emergency shelter are both now as of this year using the same data collection system. One local agency has developed a logic model and outcomes that are now being used to show outcomes and successes. This agency has agreed to share the logic model tool with other service providers for consistency of data collection.

Description of the Housing First (HF) Approach

Please describe your Housing First approach, identify what percentage of your allocation will be used towards furnishing and repairing housing for HF purposes and provide a timeline for HF implementation.

Chronic and episodically homeless individuals are assessed through centralized intake and assessment and then assigned an agency case management team to provide intensive case management services for 12-18 months. The goal is to successfully graduate individuals with supports in place to maintain their housing. This process is funded through the province of Alberta. HPS funding in the community plan for 2014-2015 will provide a permanent supportive case management team to work with individuals on a longer term basis. It has been identified that there is a percentage of chronic and episodically homeless individuals that cycle back into homelessness without on going long term supports. When an individual has received supports through the provincial housing first program and has been identified as needing PSH, a transfer to the HPS team is done through consultations and meetings. 0% will be used towards capital.

Timelines: PSH team consisting of 1 team lead, 2.5 case managers hired and in place by April 15, 2014 Community referrals and transfers from provincial housing first teams take place. Maximum 45 clients PSH team in place until March 31, 2015. RFP will go out to the community in the spring of 2015 for a PSH team to be funded through provincial funding and increase the team to 4 case managers and a case load of 80 based on community need.

Target Group(s)

Please describe in more detail the group(s) this priority will address.

- Chronically homeless individuals
- Episodically homeless individuals

Individualized Services Priority

Rationale

Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.

Reducing homelessness by improving the self sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and those at imminent risk of homelessness, is an identified priority in our community. Grande Prairie as a city has a population of apx 70,000 people. It is located in the heart of a regional service center for the northern Alberta oil and gas industry. As a regional service hub, city-based companies service oil and natural gas activities in northwestern Alberta, northwestern British Columbia and into the Northwest Territories. This massive market aids in huge worker migration to the area in times of oil and gas production increases. People come from other provinces where there is limited employment looking for work. Many arrive with little start-up money and no place to live. This results in high shelter occupancy rates, low vacancy rates, and rental rates increased. CMHC stated in their spring 2014 rental market report the vacancy rate in Grande Prairie was 0.09% and Grande Prairie had the highest increase of 9% in rental rates. The priority for housing loss prevention services and emergency funding for basic and urgent needs has become apparent with the high number of people requesting support. This has been identified through the provincial housing first teams as a need as someone who is not chronic or episodically homeless does not fit the housing first program.

Target Group(s) within the homeless and at imminent risk of homelessness populations
Please describe in more detail the group(s) this priority will address.

- General population
- Aboriginal people