



ENDING HOMELESSNESS

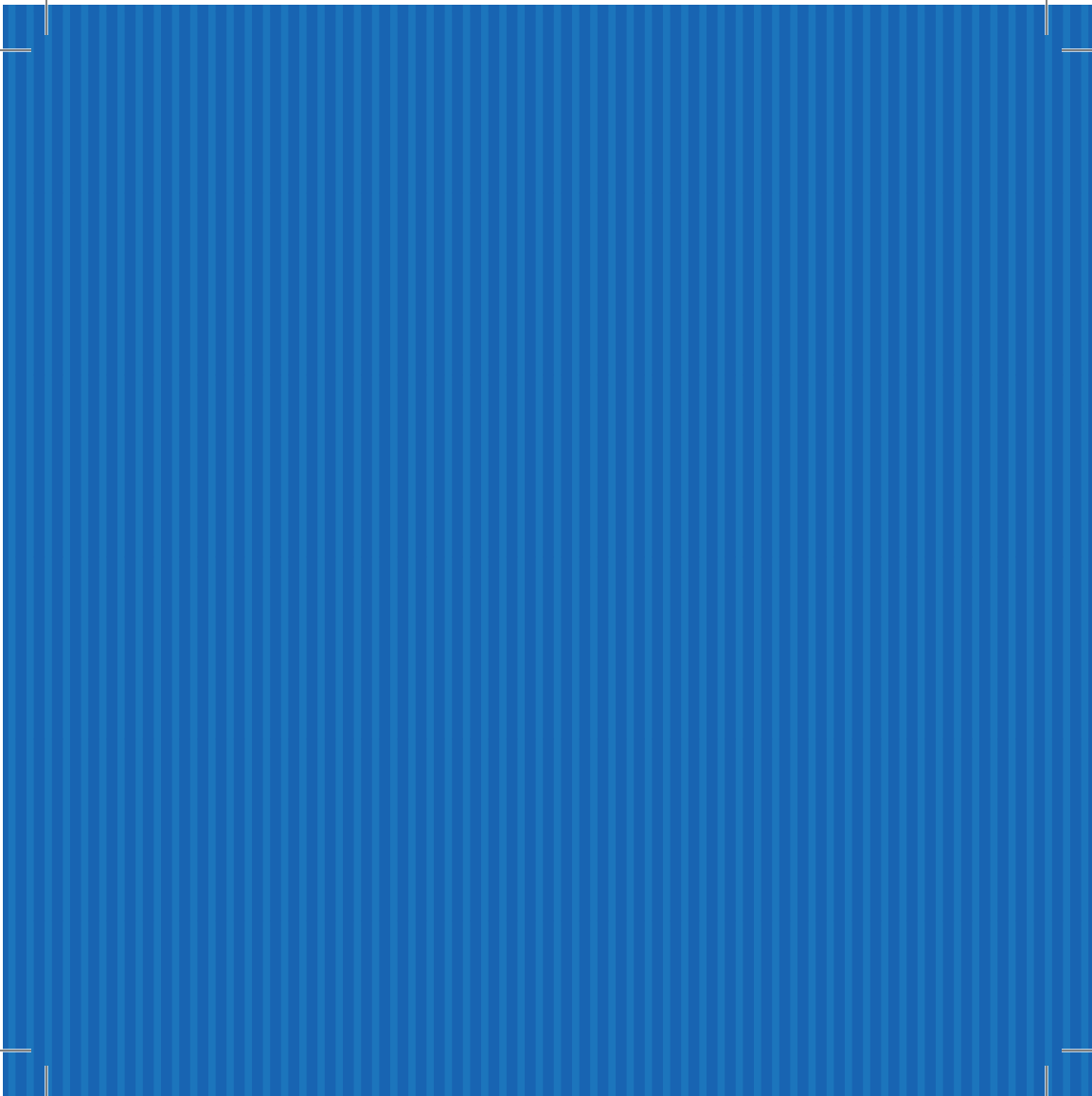
YEAR THREE REPORT CARD

2017 - 2018

GRANDE PRAIRIE'S FIVE YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS 2015-2019

THE CITY OF
GRANDE
prairie

csd
community social
development





Building Opportunities

During 2017-18 new projects began that will refine and re-ignite our approach to homelessness. Of particular importance is the Voice for the Voiceless, a group of people with lived experience in homelessness with a mission to address the concerns of those who are experiencing homelessness. The overall vision for the group is to give back to the homeless community to improve lives. Voice for the Voiceless has so far shaped funding, been involved with planning and analyzed community needs.

We know that homelessness is still an issue in Grande Prairie, cycling in tandem, to some degree, with population and economic changes driven by resource industries. We also know that opioid use and the risks associated with it acutely affect our whole community, including those experiencing homelessness. With successes and challenges in mind, we continue to be proud of our community response to the changing face of homelessness, and take pride in our ability to seek out and build opportunities together.

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Year 3 Provincial Outcomes

The outcomes below measure progress toward ending homelessness in Grande Prairie through the lens of 'A Plan for Alberta, Ending Homelessness in 10 Years' and Grande Prairie's Five Year Plan. We use a housing first philosophy, with no preconditions for receiving support. The Housing First program involves participants in achieving the stability needed to maintain permanent housing. We also look upstream at homelessness, with our Housing Loss Prevention program and Youth Transition House, and address emergent needs via the Street Outreach Team.

Outcome 1: Those housed through Housing First will remain stably housed

	Year 1: 2015-16	Year 2: 2016-17	Year 3: 2017-18*	Since 2009
<p>People Housed: This is the number of people who move from homelessness into housing (new participants). Systemic factors like vacancy/rental rate, in-migration to the city affect this number, as does the level of support needed by existing and new participants.</p>	210	147	94	1255
<p>Program Graduates: These participants are able to maintain their housing independently and graduate from Housing First.</p>	13	42	61	378
<p>Retention Rate: This number reflects the proportion of participants in the program during the year who remain engaged in the program or leave for positive reasons.</p>	93%	92%	96%	82%

**Data source for 2017-18: Housing First Quarterly Report from Community and Social Services. All other indicators reported using local dataset*

Year 3 Provincial Outcomes

Outcome 2: Those housed in Housing First will show a reduction in use of health and justice systems

After 6 months in housing, we saw average reductions in the following areas, indicating increasing quality of life and decreasing system costs:

- 56% in use of Emergency Medical Services
- 63% in visits to an Emergency Room
- 71% in interactions with the Police

Outcome 3: Those housed in Housing First will demonstrate improved self-sufficiency, via stable income

After six months in housing, 92% of Housing First participants had income from government or employment sources.

Outcome 4: Those in Housing First will demonstrate engagement in mainstream services

At six months of housing, Housing First participants received referrals to many community services (top five listed below). Housing First staff give “active referrals” that aim to ensure follow-through.

- 1. None needed** – many participants receive numerous referrals in their first weeks and months in the program.
- 2. Non-Hospital/Non-emergency Health**, including family doctors, psychiatrists, eye doctors, dentists, chiropractors, etc.
- 3. Counseling**
- 4. Financial Services** including income tax completion, budgeting, credit counseling, debt reduction, etc.
- 5. Addictions Services** including AA or NA, counseling, treatment, etc.

Year 3 Community Outcomes

Outcome 5: An effective diversion system prevents people from experiencing homelessness

During 2017-18 Grande Prairie's Housing Loss Prevention program **supported 207 people** who needed help to stabilize or improve their housing and **124 people** to attend employment training and/or receive cultural support.

The top five needs, ranked by use:

1. Assistance with rent or mortgage arrears
2. Referrals to community resources
3. Cultural supports and employment training
4. Assistance with security deposit
5. Assistance with first month's rent

Outcome 6: Harm reduction and no-barrier supports mitigate the immediate effects of homelessness

Grande Prairie's **Street Outreach Team**, operated by HIV North, continued to **provide day and night support to hundreds of people** during the year, with referrals, harm reduction supplies and education, transportation, advocacy and more. This team also knits all parts of the community together by providing updates on current trends and needs, and facilitating inclusion and connection to housing supports of some of the most vulnerable people in the community.

Outcome 7: Ending youth homelessness is a priority

7 youth received mentorship and support during 2017-18 in Grande Prairie's 4-bedroom youth transition house, an independent living model for youth up to 18.5yrs operated via a partnership with Sunrise House Youth Emergency Shelter. In addition to the youth house, 13 people housed through Housing First and 19 supported by Housing Loss Prevention were youth.

Homeless Initiative 2017-2018

Funded Programs

Accredited Supportive Living Services — Intensive Case Management

Canadian Mental Health Association — Intensive Case Management

Centerpoint Facilitation Inc. — Rapid Rehousing, Housing Loss Prevention/Cultural Supports

YMCA of Northern Alberta — Centralized Assessment

HIV North Society — Permanent Supportive Housing, Street Outreach

Sunrise House Youth Emergency Shelter — Youth Navigator, Youth Transition House

Rotary House, Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, Saint Lawrence Centre — Winter Programming

Partners

Community Advisory Board on Housing and Homelessness

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
— 20,000 Homes Campaign

Funders

Government of Canada — Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)

Government of Alberta — Outreach Support Service Initiative (OSSI)

City of Grande Prairie — Community Social Development



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HOMELESSNESS IS NOT WHO YOU ARE; IT'S WHERE YOU ARE.