



# ENDING HOMELESSNESS

YEAR FOUR REPORT CARD

2018 - 2019

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

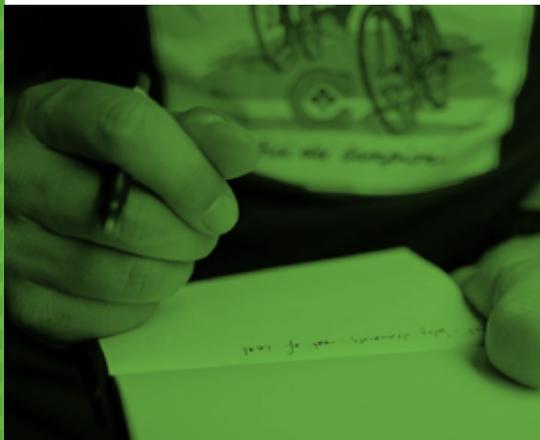




**Grande Prairie's Homeless Initiative** is a dedicated group of service providers and community members that delivers a set of prevention and intervention programs for people experiencing homelessness, with the end goal of increased independence in permanent housing. The Initiative is managed by the City of Grande Prairie in partnership with the Community Advisory Board on Housing and Homelessness. Funding for the Initiative comes primarily from the Government of Alberta , with additional funding from the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Homelessness Partnering Strategy.

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## 2018-2019 Homeless Initiative Programs

Program	Description	Service Providers
<b>Centralized Intake &amp; Assessment</b>	Matches people with the appropriate Homeless Initiative program, based on level of need.	YMCA of Northern Alberta
<b>Housing First</b>	Supports people experiencing homelessness to find, maintain and increase independence in permanent housing.	Centerpoint Facilitation, Canadian Mental Health Association, HIV North Society
<b>Youth Interventions</b>	A Youth Transition House and Youth Navigator support youth experiencing homelessness to access services, find housing and transition to independence.	Sunrise House Youth Emergency Shelter
<b>Housing Loss Prevention</b> <i>(Federal funding)</i>	Supports people at risk of housing loss by providing short-term financial assistance and referrals to community supports.	Centerpoint Facilitation
<b>Enhanced Shelter Services</b>	Supports people in Rotary House to connect with community services and transitional housing.	Rotary House
<b>Residential Supports</b>	A Pilot program supporting Oasis Ministries residents to maintain housing stability.	Oasis Ministries
<b>Street Outreach</b>	Supports people experiencing homelessness in many situations.	HIV North Society
<b>Drop-in</b>	Winter drop-in services.	Saint Lawrence Centre
<b>Point in Time Count</b> <i>(Federal funding)</i>	A bi-annual count of people experiencing homelessness in Grande Prairie. The most recent Count was on April 11, 2018.	Led by the City of Grande Prairie

## Year 4 Homeless Initiative Outcomes

During Grande Prairie's 2018 Point in Time Count, **228 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in a single night**. Grande Prairie's Homeless Initiative is focused on addressing homelessness through the lens of *Grande Prairie's Five Year Plan to End Homeless (2014-19)* and the provincial *Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in Ten Years (2009-19)*. The six outcomes in this report showcase progress made by the Homeless Initiative during 2018-19.

### Outcome 1: People housed through Housing First programs will remain stably housed

	Year 1: 2015-16	Year 2: 2016-17	Year 3: 2017-18	Year 4: 2018-19	Since 2009
<b>People Housed:</b> These participants went from homelessness to housing with program support.	210	147	94	126	1290
<b>Program Graduates:</b> These participants were able to maintain their housing independently and no longer needed Housing First.	13	42	37	19	326
<b>Retention Rate:</b> These participants remained active in the program during the year or left for positive reasons.	93%	92%	90%	82%	79%



## Year 4 Homeless Initiative Outcomes

### Outcome 2: People 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 decreased costs to public systems:

- 73% in use of Emergency Medical Services
- 77% in visits to an Emergency Room
- 92% in interactions with the Police

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

After six months in housing, **89%** of Housing First participants had income from government or employment sources.

### Outcome 4: People housed in Housing First will demonstrate engagement in mainstream services

In the first three months of housing, Housing First participants are supported to access many community services (top five listed below):

- 1. Financial Services** including income tax completion, budgeting, credit counseling, debt reduction, bank accounts, etc.
- 2. Counseling** to support people in building healthy relationships and improve mental health.
- 3. Non-Hospital/Non-emergency Health Services**, including family doctors, psychiatrists, eye doctors, dentists, chiropractors, etc.
- 4. Addictions Services** including Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, addiction counseling, treatment, etc.
- 5. None needed** – many participants receive numerous referrals in the first weeks of engagement with a Housing Team, even before they find housing. This will almost always include connections with income.

## Year 4 Homeless Initiative Outcomes

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

During 2018-19 **201 people** were enrolled in the Homeless Initiative Housing Loss Prevention program which offers support for up to three months to people facing housing instability. **87%** of participants who completed a follow-up three months later reported that they were still in stable housing.

**The top five services needed to achieve housing stability were:**

1. Assistance with rent or mortgage arrears
2. Assistance with security deposit
3. Referrals to community resources
4. Cultural supports and core skills development opportunities
5. Rent or mortgage subsidy

### Outcome 6: Outreach supports mitigate the immediate effects of homelessness

**The Homeless Initiative Street Outreach Team** played an important role in helping Rotary House manage high numbers of clients during the year. This was in addition to the Team's continued role in connecting with the city's most vulnerable people and managing emergent needs with mobile services.

The Team also covers park and camps during the City's bi-annual Point in Time Count of homelessness, last done in April 2018. **The Saint Lawrence Centre** also provided outreach services, offering a winter drop-in program for people experiencing homelessness, and built community awareness about homelessness.

### Outcome 7: Addressing youth homelessness is a priority

**8 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 independent youth. 58 dependent children were also housed along with their parent(s) or guardian(s) in Housing First programs.

### Outcome 8: Addressing indigenous homelessness is a priority

A disproportionately high number of indigenous people experience homelessness in Grande Prairie. For example, 44% of people included in the 2018 Point in Time Count identified as indigenous, representing over 15 nations. Similarly, **46% of the people housed through Housing First programs in Grande Prairie during 2018-19 identified as indigenous**. We intend to build better partnerships to reduce inflow of indigenous people into homelessness.

## Acknowledgements

**We acknowledge the homeland of the many diverse First Nations and Metis people whose ancestors have walked this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Treaty 8.**

**We want to thank our funders, the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada.**

The Province has provided funding to Grande Prairie since 2009 as part of *A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in Ten Years*. This funding, with additional dollars from the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Homelessness Partnering Strategy has enabled Grande Prairie to intervene in the cycle of homelessness using a Housing First philosophical approach. The City is responsible to manage provincial and federal funding to achieve the greatest impact locally in partnership with local service providers.

*This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy.*



THE CITY OF  
**GRANDE**  
prairie



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