7 Cities Housing First Conference

May 2014

Presenters:
Family Violence Prevention and Homeless Supports Division, Alberta Human Services

Barry Bezuko, Director Cross Ministry Initiatives Branch
Darren Joslin, Director, Alberta Interagency Council on Homelessness

A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years

"Homeless isn't who you are: it's where you are"

Barry Bezuko, Director, Homeless Cross-Ministry Initiatives

May 2014

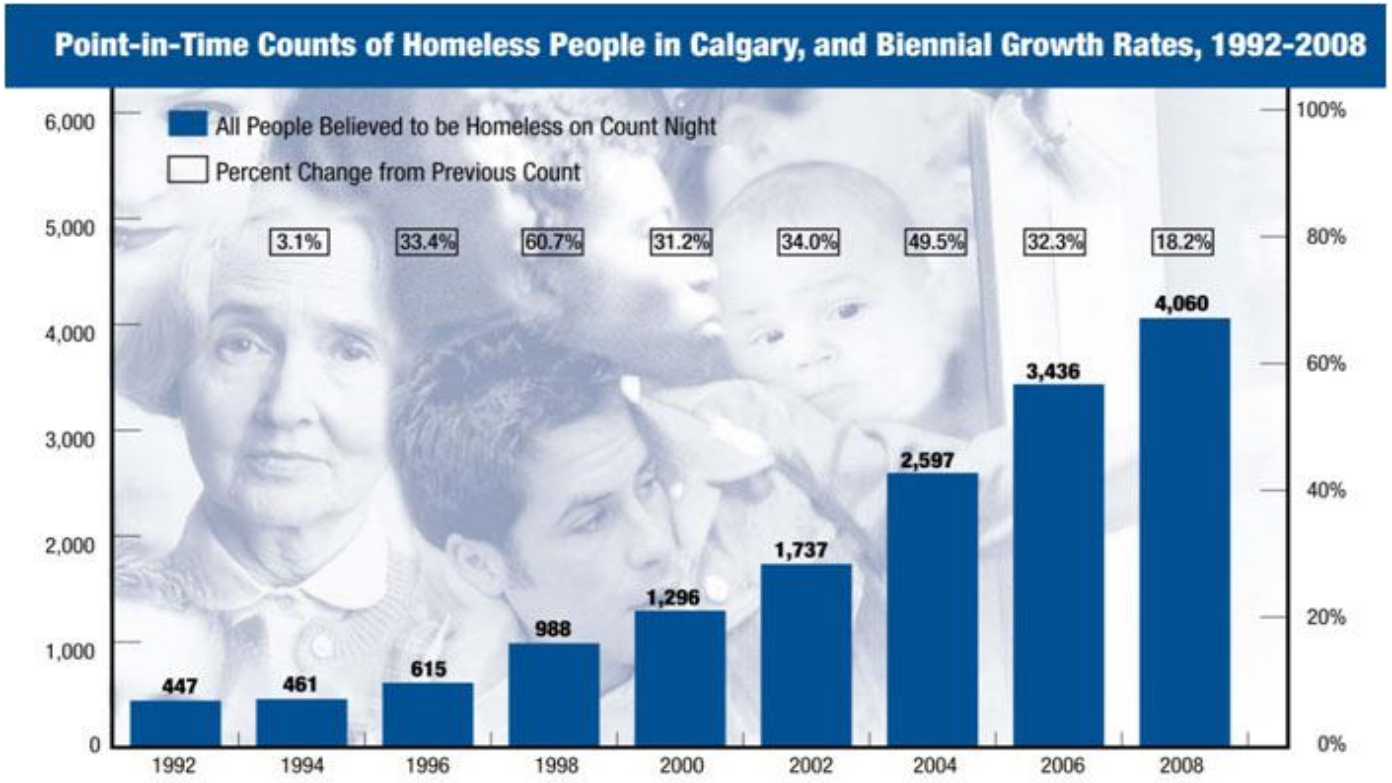
Presentation Outline

A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years

- Doing what's right
- Innovation
- Transformation
- Outcomes and Results
- Performance Evaluation Framework (PEF)

Government of Alberta

Doing What's Right: *Impetus for change*



More shelters ≠ the answer

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Doing What's Right: *Homelessness in Alberta*

In 2008, 11,000 Albertans were homeless

- 14% living on streets
- 25% employed
- 40% mental health issues
- 50% substance abuse issues
- 11% families with children
- 10% young adults

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Doing What's Right: *Commitment*

- Premier Stelmach made a commitment to end homelessness,
  not merely manage it.
- In January 2008, he established the Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness and tasked them with developing a plan
  to end homelessness.
  - Board selected from across the province with community and stakeholder participation

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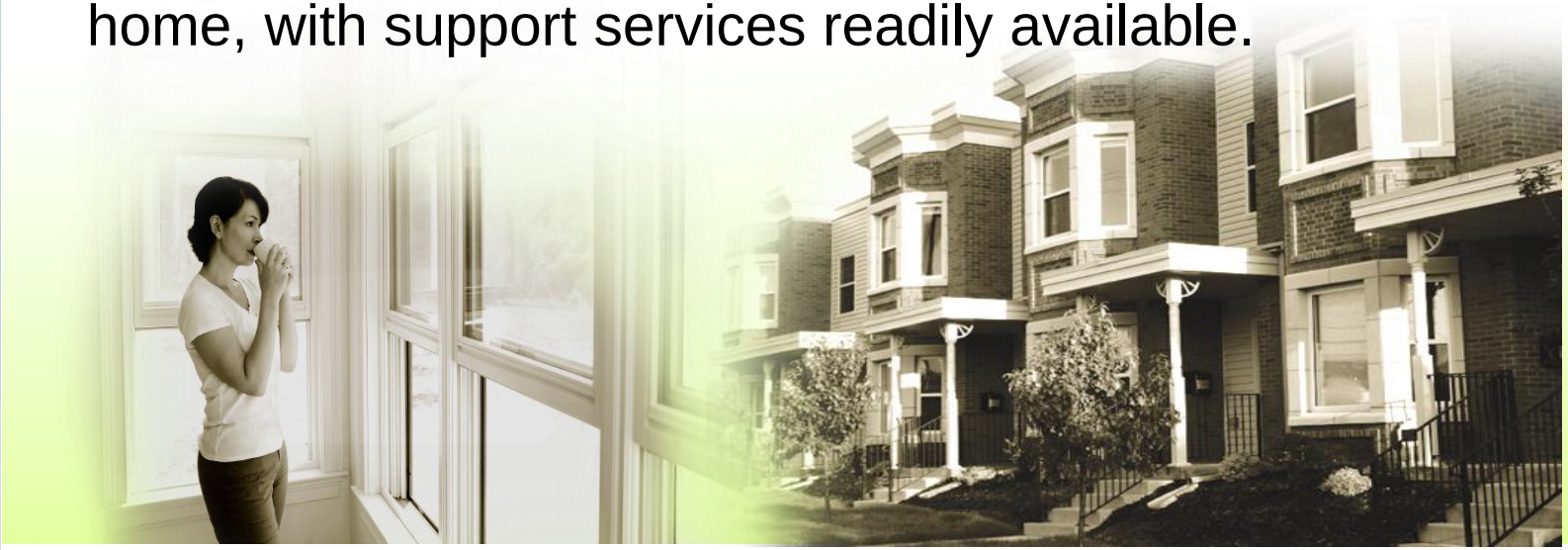
Innovation – Public Policy: *Housing First*

Housing First is a client centered approach to help the chronic homeless break the cycle of homelessness, by providing a safe and secure home, with support services readily available.



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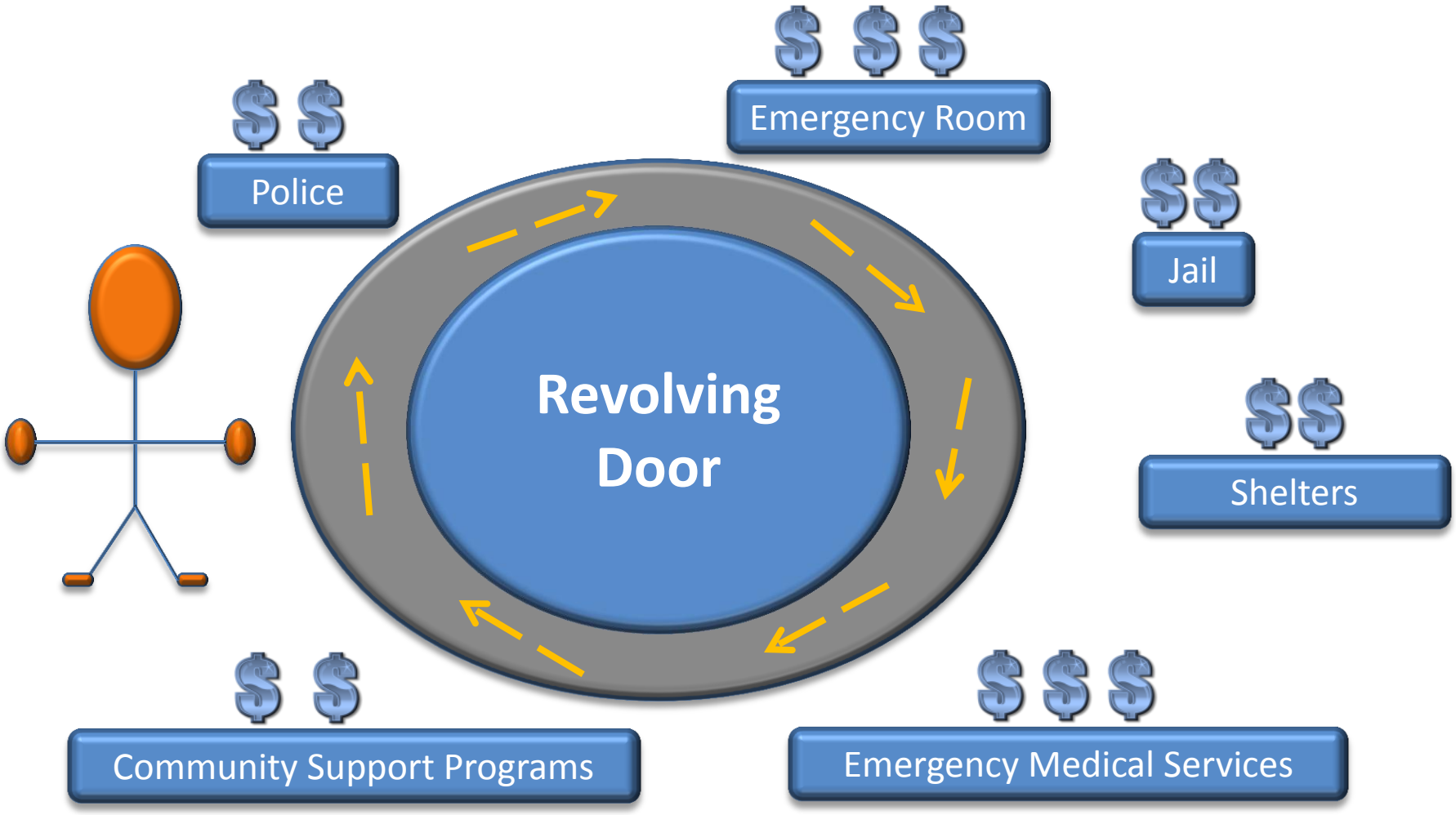
Innovation – *The Business Case*



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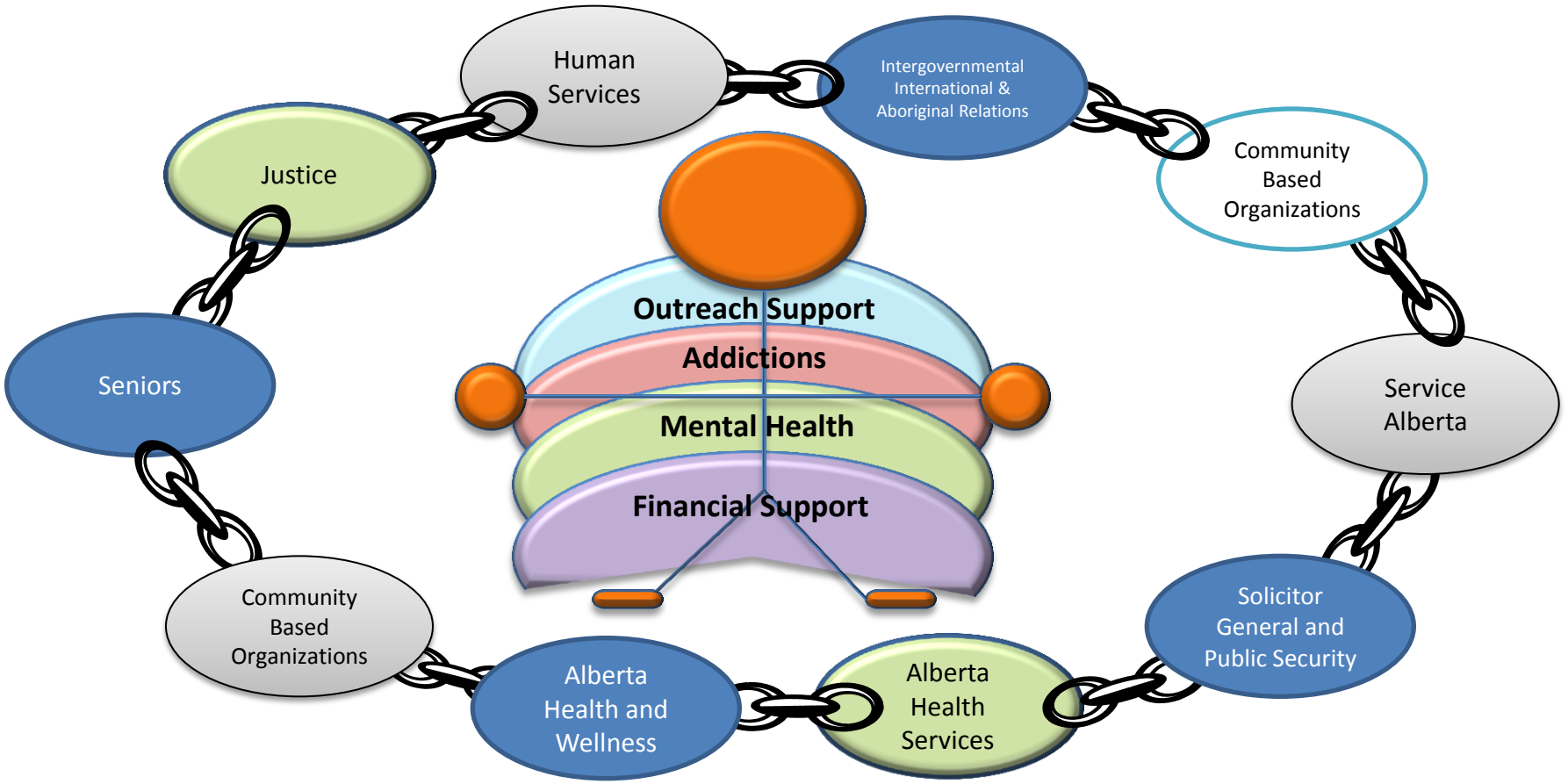
Innovation – Governance: *Partnerships*



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Transformation: *A Plan for Alberta-17 Strategies*

1. *Data collections standards*
2. *Provincial electronic information management*
3. *Establish research arm*
4. *Measure outcomes and progress*
5. *Emergency assistance programs*
6. *Reformulate government assistance programs*
7. *Improve system navigation*
8. *Outcome based contracting with homeless-serving agencies*
9. *Prevent discharge to homelessness*
10. *Support community plans*
11. *Increase supply of permanent housing with supports*
12. *Create additional housing options*
13. *Emergency Shelters Outcomes*
14. *Client information sharing between homeless serving agencies*
15. *Increase access to personal identification*
16. *Reduce Poverty*
17. *Legislative and regulatory changes*

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A Plan for Alberta
Outcomes, Results and Demographics

Housing First	April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2014	Percentage
All information is self-reported by clients at program intake		
Total clients housed	9,451	
General		
Men	5,388	57.01%
Women	4,045	42.80%
Other	18	0.19%
Under 18	59	0.62%
18-24 years old	1,227	12.98%
25-35 years old	2,519	26.65%
36-50 years old	3,735	39.52%
51-64 years old	1,810	19.15%
65 + years old	101	1.07%
Composition		
Families	1,988	
Chronic	4,404	46.60%
Caucasian	4,541	48.05%
Aboriginal	3,109	32.90%
Other	1,801	19.06%

Key Demographics

Housing First	April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2014	Percentage
All information is self-reported by clients at program intake		
Presenting Issues		
Mental health issues	4,047	42.82%
Substance abuse issues	4,424	46.81%
Physical health issues	4,177	44.20%
Income Source		
Clients on AISH	1,235	14.76%
Clients on Alberta Works	3,942	47.11%
Clients on Employment Insurance	262	3.13%
Full Time Employment	859	10.27%
Part Time Employment	544	6.50%
No Income	1,526	18.24%
Note: Income numbers and presenting numbers are not mutually exclusive. Clients may have more than one source of income or presenting issue.		

April 2014

A Plan for Alberta
Outcomes, Results and Demographics

Key Results*

9,451 homeless Albertans have been provided housing and the supports that will help them remain housed.

3,037 people have 'graduated' from Housing First programs, meaning they have achieved housing stability.

In 2013-14, use of Government of Alberta-funded temporary shelter spaces decreased provincially by **1.9%,** compared to the year before the Plan came into effect (2008-09).

Outcomes

At any given reporting period, 85% of the people housed will still be permanently housed.

Those persons permanently housed will show reduced incarcerations, reduced emergency room visits and reduced in-patient hospitalizations.

Persons housed in the program will be engaged in mainstream services (e.g., medical doctors or specialists, legal service, etc).

Persons housed in the program will have a stable income source (e.g., employment income, AISH, Alberta Works, disability pension, Old Age Security, etc.)

*As self-reported by Housing First clients in the Homeless Management Information System from April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2014.

Indicators/Results from our Data*

Approximately **73%** of Housing First Clients have remained housed.

*Reported changes in utilization of public systems among housing first clients:

Health:
- Interactions with EMS: reduced by **61.3%**
- Emergency Room visits: reduced by **54.2%**
- Days in hospital: reduced by **66.6%**

Justice:
- Interactions with police: reduced by **58.9%**
- Days in jail: reduced by **85.3%**
- Court appearances: reduced by **51.5%**

Clients on AISH	1,235	15%
Clients on Alberta Works	3,942	47%
Clients on Employment Insurance	262	3%
Full Time Employment	859	10%
Part Time Employment	544	7%
No income	1,526	18%

Performance Evaluation Framework (PEF)

Performance Evaluation Framework (PEF)

1. Is Homelessness ending?
2. Context in each community
3. Results of government investment
4. Is the delivery and methodology working?

Performance Evaluation Framework (PEF)

- Is the Plan achieving its intent?

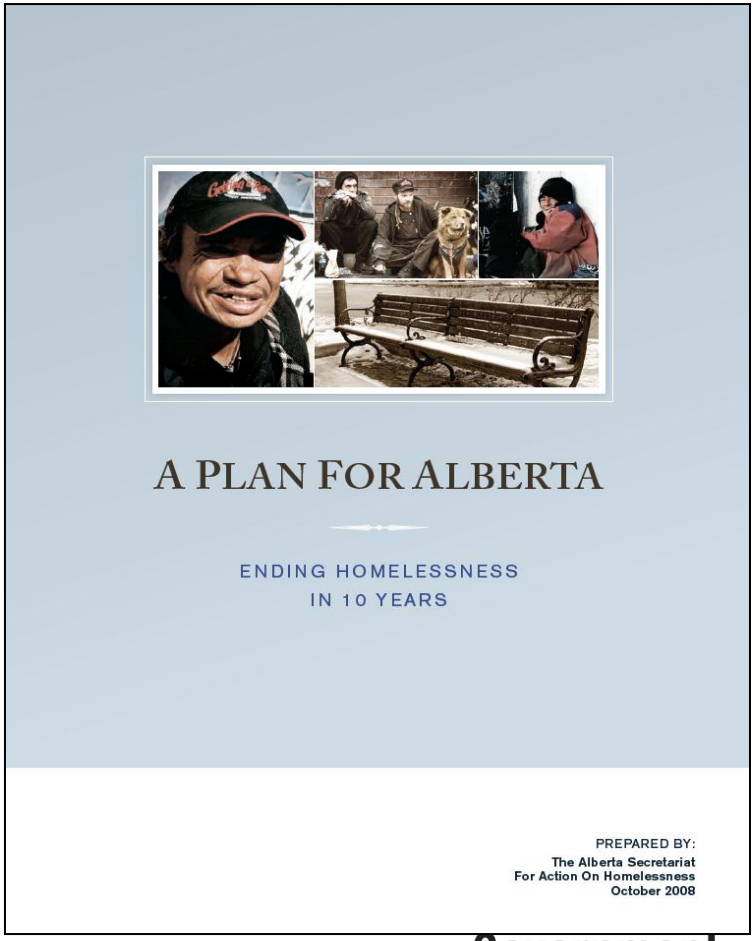
Alberta Interagency Council on Homelessness (IAC)

Darren Joslin
Director, Alberta Interagency Council on Homelessness,
Family Violence Prevention and Homeless Supports Division

Alberta Secretariat for Action on Homelessness

Task: to develop a 10-year strategic plan outlining a "comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable approach" to ending homelessness.

Outcome: *A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years* represents a fundamental shift in Alberta's approach to homelessness.



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Alberta Interagency Council on Homelessness

Council Mandate

To lead the systemic and transformational changes that are necessary to end homelessness in Alberta by 2019.

Council Vision

By 2019, all Albertans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to safe, affordable, permanent housing and the supports required to maintain their housing.

Priorities of the Council	Council Committees
Aboriginal people, youth, seniors, women and families fleeing violence, newcomers, and other sub-populations have access to specialized housing and support services that are tailored to their unique circumstances and experiences.	**SPECIALIZED POPULATIONS**
Integrated case management and service delivery are characteristics of local homeless-serving systems.	**INTEGRATED HOUSING AND SUPPORTS**
Sustainable investment strategies are in place to achieve the successful implementation of *A Plan for Alberta.*	**FUNDING AND INVESTMENT**
Root causes of homelessness are addressed through integrated service delivery and public policy.	**INTEGRATED HOUSING AND SUPPORTS** **PREVENTION**
Prevention of homelessness is adequately resourced and successful.	**PREVENTION**

Housing and Supports Spectrum – Developed by the Alberta Interagency Council on Homelessness

	Homeless				Housed				
Housing Circumstance	**Un-sheltered**	**Emergency Sheltered**	**Provisionally Accommodated**	**At-Risk of Homelessness**	**Supportive Housing**	**Supported Housing**	**Social Housing**	**Housing Subsidization**	**Pure Market Housing** *Out of Scope*
Description	Living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation	Shelters for people who are homeless, and Women's Shelters	Accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure; includes transitional facilities and people accessing private, temporary accommodation	Sheltered individuals whose current economic and/or housing situation is dangerously precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards	Combines accommodation with on-site supports and care. May be congregate or independent living units	Accommodations with supports arranged off-site	Units are owned and operated by government or non-profits	Accommodations with subsidies	
Access to Supports	Outreach services that connect with people where they are	On-site essential services; facilitated access to supports	Where accommodations are provided by government/ agencies, on-site access to supports may be available	Typically required to be initiated by the individual	On-site staff provide or co-ordinate supports of varying intensities to residents	A range of supports services customized to client needs to increase/ maintain housing stability	Supports accessed through mainstream services accessible to all Albertans	Housing-specific financial support	Supports accessed through mainstream services accessible to all Albertans
Housing Examples (not exhaustive)	- Public spaces - Squatting in private spaces - Vehicles, attics, garages - Makeshift shelters	- Emergency Shelters - Women's Shelters - Youth Shelters - Respite - Community Crisis beds (Health Services)	- Penal institutions - Medical/mental health institutions - Community Residential treatment facilities - Foster care - Youth group homes; - Refugee/newcomer accommodation centres - Transitional Housing - Second Stage Housing - Staying with others/'couch surfing' - Hostels, rooming houses, motels - First Nations comm. temp. housing - Disaster relief housing	- Those whose employment is precarious - Those experiencing sudden unemployment - Households facing eviction - Housing with transitional supports about to be discontinued - People with severe and persistent mental illness, active addictions, substance use and/or behavioural issues - Breakdown in family relations - People facing, or living in direct fear, of violence/abuse	- Residential living – group homes and harm-reduction housing - Seniors lodges - Assisted and enhanced assisted living facilities - Rent Supplements	Housing First (e.g. Intensive Case Management/ Assertive Community Treatment) - Home care for seniors and those with physical/developmental disabilities - Rent Supplements	- Seniors Self Contained Accommodations - Community housing managed by Housing Management Bodies - Co-op/Co-Housing - Rent Supplements	- Rent supplements - Habitat for Humanity - Co-op/Co-Housing - Employer-supported housing - First time home buyers programs - Affordable Housing - Private Sector housing	**Pure Market Housing** *Out of Scope*

HOMELESS –
Individuals and families residing in these locations are considered to be homeless, in that they are "without stable, permanent, appropriate housing of the immediate prospect, means and ability of acquiring it." Canadian Homeless Research Network (2012)
Canadian Definition of Homelessness

Council Planning Schematic

5 Years Forward →

SUPPORTIVE POLICIES
- Prevention strategies
- Alternative Funding Models
- Targeted Responses for Populations

INTEGRATED HOUSING AND SUPPORTS FRAMEWORK
- Policy
- Funding and Investment
- Housing Spectrum
- Roles

POLICY DIRECTION
PROVINCIAL 10-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS
(2009-2019)
HOUSING FIRST FOCUS

Federal, Provincial, Municipal partners

LONG-TERM HOUSING STRATEGY
- Roles and Responsibilities (Future State)
- Housing Need Projections
- Anticipated Maintenance/Renovations
- Specialized Populations
- Integration of Housing and Supports
- Governance structures/ Implementation Mechanisms
- Housing Spectrum

RESEARCH AGENDA
- Alberta Centre for Child, Family and Community Research (ACCFCR)
- Evaluation
- Data
- Research Priorities
- Knowledge Mobilization

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY
- Community Based Organizations
- Housing Management Bodies
- Service Providers
- Shelters

INTEGRATED GOVERNMENT DELIVERY MECHANISMS

Poverty Reduction Strategy
Social Policy Framework
Children First Act

Family and Community Engagement Councils
Municipal Government Act Review
Child Intervention Review

Thematic Summary of Recommendations from The Council

- Coordinated Funding and Long-Term Planning - Integration of Housing and Supports Funding
- Systemic Changes to Government Operations
- Housing and Supports System Capacity Building
- Prevention of Homelessness

Council Recommendations:

Coordinated Funding and Planning

- Develop a **cross-government consolidated plan** to guide housing development investments in support of meeting the housing and supports needs of vulnerable Albertans.
    - Proposed Housing Strategy for Alberta
    - Multi-year funding frameworks
    - Innovation with funding/investment in housing

Council Recommendations:
Systemic Changes to Government Operations

- **Procedural and capacity enhancements** to government's current systems of housing development and delivery of supports to vulnerable Albertans.
    - Integrated housing and supports framework for Alberta with Housing Strategy
    - Better planning, monitoring and accountability
    - National Housing Strategy to be leveraged

Council Recommendations:
System Capacity Building

- Build **capacity at community level** to advance the Plan, and to leverage current and future community partnerships.
    - Project development funding
    - Community inclusion frameworks
    - Capacity to develop housing and maintain and renovate housing

Council Recommendations:

Prevention of Homelessness

- Recommendations on the **prevention of homelessness** will enhance the coordination and integration of system responses.
    - Exploring pathways into homelessness in Alberta, particularly for Aboriginal people, women and families fleeing violence, seniors, youth, immigrants, in-migrants and refugee newcomers, and people with disabilities.
    - Strengthening efforts to prevent people from being transitioned from provincial and community systems of care into homelessness.
    - Expanding diversion practices that will keep people in their current housing or divert them away from homelessness.

Council Recommendations: Prevention of Homelessness (continued)

- Recommendations on the **prevention of homelessness** will enhance the coordination and integration of system responses.
    - Expanding community inclusion frameworks to promote inclusion of vulnerable Albertans in neighbourhood life.
    - The Government of Alberta engage the Council of the Federation to advocate to the Government of Canada for a national housing strategy.

Council's Vision

By 2019, all Albertans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to safe, affordable, permanent housing and the supports required to maintain their housing.

Questions and Answers Period

http://humanservices.alberta.ca/

Click on Homeless Supports

Government of Alberta