

Affordable Housing & Homelessness

Update from the City of Edmonton

November 21, 2019



Edmonton Housing Need

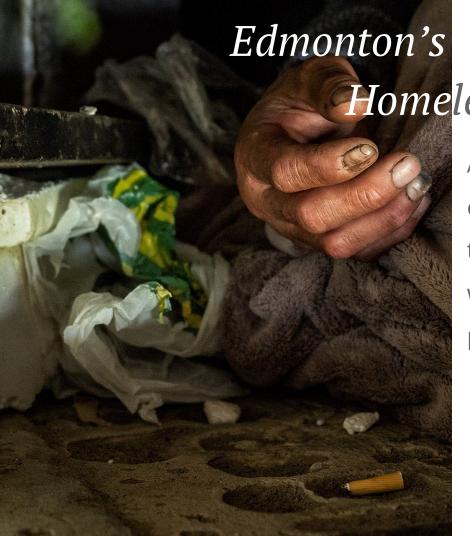
48 550 low income renter households in Edmonton spent more than 30% of their before tax annual income on shelter (core housing need)

20 395 households in Edmonton earn less than \$20,000 per year and spend more than 50% of their before tax annual income on shelter (extreme housing need)

>6000 households on Capital Region Housing's affordable housing waitlist

~50 000 units = current supply gap





Homeless Population

As of October 2019, **1,729** individuals were experiencing **chronic homelessness**. Of those, **63 percent** were Indigenous and **456** were sleeping rough or "unsheltered" in places unfit for human habitation.



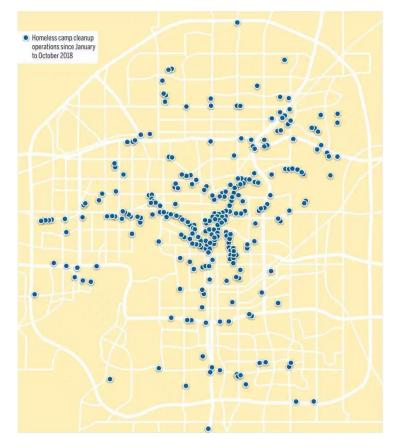
Complexity of Need

- Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness typically have complex, long-term health conditions such as mental illness, physical disabilities and substance use disorders and are still dealing with significant trauma or abuse.
 - 41% of people on the By Names List reported having a combination of co-occurring, severe and persistent physical health, mental health, and substance use conditions.
- Once chronically homeless, it is incredibly challenging for those individuals to get back into housing and staying housed.



Impacts on the City of Edmonton





4004: YTD complaints regarding encampments (up from **1161** in 2018)

\$1.8m: The cost of homeless encampment clean up in Edmonton annually

\$70 - \$110k: Per homeless person, using emergency services

\$14 - \$22 k: To house someone experiencing homelessness through Housing First



Business & Community Impacts

Social disorder related to homelessness has an **immediate** impact on local businesses. Challenges related to homelessness include:

- Fears of safety aggression/violence
- Businesses being used for shelter or warmth
- Perception of disorder
- Public intoxication
- People sleeping on the street



Progress to Date



Edmonton has emerged as a leader in homeless-serving system planning work, and has been recognized as paving the way internationally.

Since 2009, Edmonton has:

- REDUCED our homeless population by 43%
- HOUSED 9,700 Edmontonians, leading all other Canadian cities
- SAVED an estimated \$920 million in health and justice system costs



Barriers to Continued Progress

- 1) Lack of low-barrier shelter options
- Difficulty housing unsheltered population
- 3) Insufficient supply of housing geared to people with complex needs





Solution: Integrated System Response

Encampment Response Team (September 2019)

- Piloted a coordinated enforcement and clean-up approach to enable concurrent outreach and housing efforts by multiple partner organizations in encampments.
- October 16 to date: 73 individuals connected to housing teams, 9 individuals housed in less than a month.

Next steps: establish scheduled, coordinated responses between enforcement and housing teams to **maximize successful housing outcomes** while preventing the establishment of high risk encampments.



Solution: Lower Barriers to Shelter

Work with Government of Alberta and shelter providers to address barriers to accessing shelter identified by people experiencing homelessness

- Unsafe/perception of safety
- Lack of privacy/dignity
- Hygiene
- Banning practices
- Lack of storage space
- Inability to stay with partners/pets
- Too institutional for people with historical trauma





Solution: Bridge Housing

Bridge housing is short-term, continuous stay accommodation for individuals awaiting placement into permanent housing.

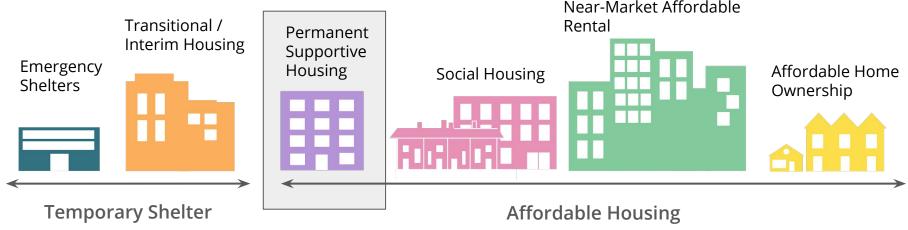






Solution: Permanent Supportive Housing





Goal: 900 units of permanent supportive housing by 2024.



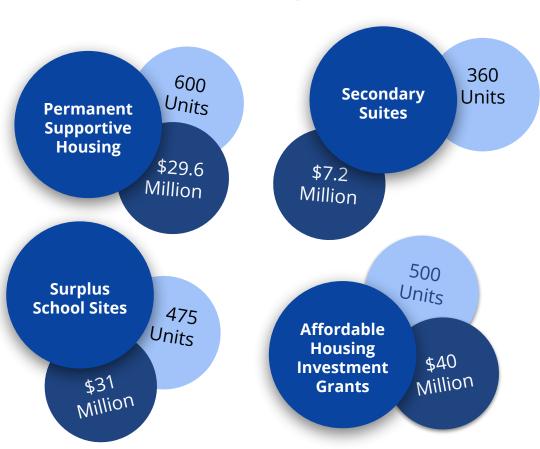
Strategic Investment Required

Operation

bei acesie		escriteite Required			COL			
Government Level	Year							
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
City of Edmonton (Capital)	\$6 M	\$6.1 M	\$6.3 M	\$6.2 M	\$6.5 M	\$6.4 M	\$ -	\$37.5 M
Government of Canada (Capital)	\$12.8 M	\$13.2 M	\$13.5 M	\$13.3 M	\$13.8 M	\$13.6 M	\$ -	\$80.2 M
Government of Alberta (Capital) (Operating)	\$19.8 M \$0	\$20.3 M \$4.2 M	\$20.8 M \$8.5 M	\$20.5 M \$13.1 M	\$21.4 M \$17.4 M	\$21 M \$20.9 M	\$ - \$24.1 M	\$124 M
Total Capital								\$241.7
Total Units in		450	200	450	600	750	000	000

Edmonton

Affordable Housing Investment Plan





Target Number of Units: **2500 units**

Total Money Available: \$132.5 Million over next four years



Developments Already Underway











