

Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014–2019

Community: *Vancouver Aboriginal*

Region: *British Columbia*

The plan has been approved by Canada for implementation.
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As this Aboriginal Homelessness allocation is over \$200,000, the community is required to commit at least 40% of its HPS allocation towards a Housing First approach starting April 1, 2016.

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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 Aboriginal individuals who used an emergency homeless shelter in the twelve month period between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012	
2. Number of Aboriginal shelter users who were chronically homeless in 2012	
3. Number of Aboriginal shelter users who were episodically homelessness in 2012	
4. Number of Aboriginal homeless individuals identified during the latest point in time count (if available)	394
5. Date count was undertaken	November 03, 2011

Readiness for Implementing Housing First

Please rate your community’s readiness to implement Housing First based on the following questions. Each component of the scale has a rating of one to four with four demonstrating full implementation of the HPS HF model. Use this information to decide where to focus your efforts in implementing your HF program. Because implementing Housing First may take some adjustments, communities will have the opportunity to rate progress annually and use the information to update priorities. Note: Responses will only be used by ESDC to understand the selection of the HF priorities and activities.

Criterion	Community’s Rating
CORE PRINCIPLES Rapid Housing with Supports. Program directly helps participants locate and secure permanent housing as rapidly as possible and assists them with moving-in or re-housing if needed.	-1-: Program expects participants to find their own housing and does not offer participants who have lost their housing a new housing unit.

Criterion	Community's Rating
<p>Housing Choice. Program participants choose the location and other features of their housing.</p>	<p>-1-: Participants have no choice in the location or other features of their housing and are assigned a unit without having a say in decorating and furnishing.</p>
<p>Separating housing provision from other services. Extent to which program participants are not required to demonstrate housing readiness.</p>	<p>-1-: Participants have access to housing only if they have successfully completed a period of time in transitional housing and meet all the readiness requirements.</p>
<p>Integrated Housing. Extent to which housing tenure is assumed to be permanent housing with no actual or expected time limits, other than those defined under a standard lease or occupancy agreement.</p>	<p>-1-: There are rigid time limits on the length of stay in housing or the housing is considered emergency.</p>
<p>Tenancy Rights and Responsibilities. Extent to which program participants have legal rights to the unit.</p>	<p>-1-: Participants have no written agreement specifying the rights and responsibilities of tenancy, have no legal recourse if asked to leave their housing and can keep housing only by meeting requirements for continued tenancy.</p>
<p>Reasonable Cost for Housing. Extent to which participants pay a reasonable amount of their income for housing costs and/or program has access to rent supplements or subsidized housing units.</p>	<p>-1-: Participants pay 61% or more of their income for housing costs and program does not have access to rent supplements.</p>
<p>Housing Support. Extent to which program offers services to help participants maintain housing, such as offering assistance with landlord relations and neighborhood orientation.</p>	<p>-1-: Program does not offer any housing support services.</p>
<p>SERVICE PHILOSOPHY</p>	
<p>Service choice. Extent to which program participants choose the type, sequence, and intensity of services such as recovery, medical and other services.</p>	<p>-1-: Services are prescribed by the service provider with no input from the participant.</p>
<p>Participant-Driven Program & Services. Extent to which the program and services are participant-driven.</p>	<p>-1-: Program does not offer any opportunities for participant input into services at any level.</p>

Criterion	Community's Rating
<p>Contact with Participants. Extent to which program maintains regular contact with participants.</p>	<p>-1-: Program has no contact with participants.</p>
<p>Continuous Services. Extent to which program participants are not discharged from services even if they lose housing.</p>	<p>-1-: Participants are discharged from program services if they lose housing for any reason.</p>
<p>Directly Offers or Brokers Services. Program directly offers or brokers support services to participants, such as recovery, medical and other services.</p>	<p>-1-: Program does not offer services to participants, either directly or through brokering.</p>
<p>Selection of Vulnerable Populations. Extent to which program focuses on chronic and/or episodically homeless individuals.</p>	<p>-1-: Program has no method to identify and select participants who are chronic and/or episodically homeless.</p>
<p>TEAM STRUCTURE/HUMAN RESOURCES</p>	
<p>Low Participant/Staff Ratio. Extent to which program consistently maintains a low participant/staff ratio.</p>	<p>-1-: 50 or more participants per 1 FTE staff.</p>

Community Advisory Board Membership

- 1. Name of the Community Advisory Board:** Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee
- 2. Number of members in your CAB:** 38

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
Stewart	Patrick	Architect AIBC, MSAA, LEED AP	- Aboriginal	Chair	Yes
Seymour	Paulette	ACCESS - Bladerunners	- Aboriginal	Co-chair	Yes
Geragthy	Tabitha	Executive Director, Helping Spirit Lodge Society	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Jim	Olivia	Assistant, Helping Spirit Lodge Society	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Laitar	June	President, Kekinow Housing Society	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Dagg	Bev	Kekinow Native Housing	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Bull	Leah	AHOP Supervisor - Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association	- Youth	Member	No
Tomma	Tanya	AHOP Worker - Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Thorne	Shelly	Executive Director, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Manning	Bob	Urban Native Youth Association	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Klashinsky	Dena	Urban Native Youth Association	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Tatoosh	Susan	Executive Director, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Hawkins	Lorelei	Founding Member, Stepping Stones Vision	- Aboriginal	Member	No
White	Clifford	Interim Executive Director, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Committee	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Martin	Christine	Executive Director – Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Forbes	Jenna	Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Services Society	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Guinan	Dan	Native Education College	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Wells	David	Native Education College	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Greene	Sandra	Community Response Coordinator Supervisor -Indian	- Aboriginal	Member	No

Community Advisory Board Membership

Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
		Residential School Survivors Society			
Wilson	Danielle	Community Response Worker - Indian Residential School Survivors Society	- Youth	Member	No
Sugars	Diane	Executive Director – Aboriginal Mother Centre	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Bowers	Chelsea	Community Outreach, Aboriginal Mother Centre	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Woodward	Mona	Executive Director, Aboriginal Front Door	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Lawson	Barb	ACCESS - Director of ACE	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Bee	Kelvin	Elder; Outreach, Aboriginal Front Door	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Foster	Jamie	Director, Community Voicemail	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Gibson	Nora	Service Canada	- Other: Service Canada	Ex-officio member	Yes
Narayan	Camille	Metro Vancouver	- Other: Metro Vancouver (municipality)	Ex-officio member	No
Harding	Theresa	Metro Vancouver	- Other: Metro Vancouver (municipality)	Ex-officio member	No
Swain	Marcel	Lu'ma Native Housing (CE)	- Aboriginal	Ex-officio member	No
Bryant	Deb	Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness Chair	- Other: Regional Committee Chair	Ex-officio member	No
Lavalee	Linda	Lu'ma Native Housing (CE)	- Aboriginal	Ex-officio member	No
Thompson	Winston	Executive Director, Healing Our Spirit	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Mervyn	Jennifer	PhD, RPsych - White Rock Child; Youth Mental Health Services	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Adams	Jerry	Executive Director, Circle of Eagles Lodge Society	- Aboriginal	Ex-officio member	No
Albert	Velma	Program Coordinator, Circle of Eagles Lodge Society	- Aboriginal	Member	No
LaVigne	Wally	Program Coordinator, Cwenengitel	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Parkinson	Bernie	Program Coordinator, Cwenengitel	- Aboriginal	Member	No

3. Given the requirement to allocate funding to the Housing First approach, which involves both housing and individual supports, are there any sectors or organizations the CAB needs to include and/or engage 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.

The AHSC is a wide network of Aboriginal specific service providers, governance bodies and First Nations housing organizations connected by a strong governance model (funded and non-funded organizations). From time to time, special delegations are invited to the AHSC to report on homelessness issues, solutions and innovative strategies. All of this information is used to inform the AHSC's Housing First strategy. The AHSC is strongly linked to the Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness, RSCH, and has representation embedded on their committee (one seat). As a result, all sectors are sufficiently involved. While some groups may not have a direct seat at the Constituency Table (CT) or CAB, the various sectors are involved in the RSCH through either an Advisory Group, one of the Constituencies, a Community Homelessness Table, or general membership meeting. The private / for profit sector is being engaged through an engagement strategy and a "business" constituency seat allocated at the decision-making table of the CT. This seat is intended to include for-profit organizations such as property developers, landlord associations and the region's boards of trade. Information gathered at the RSCH is fed back to the AHSC and is incorporated into their Housing First strategy. AHSC will work to develop formal relationships with Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) and other Provincial housing and support organizations.

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.**

Understanding the Aboriginal homeless population, prioritizing service needs, and establishing an Aboriginal Homeless Plan requires input from many key stakeholders. The AHSC has contributed experience and expertise to this process with their unique composition of community leaders, service providers and partners. Their credibility lends itself to bringing together key stakeholders to prioritize, plan and confirm decisions made through collective consultation. The AHSC actively engaged in a variety of data gathering techniques to inform this Plan. A series of working/facilitated consultation sessions were held January 23rd and 28th, March 6th and 20th to leverage the collective experience and insights of front-line service providers, community, corporate and funding partners, and community members (homeless and not). All members of the AHSC were required to attend the sessions. In the afternoon of the second session, the reps from RSCH, Metro Vancouver and Service Canada were invited to participate, add context and provide feedback. The methodology employed was Facilitated Dialogue. Targeted one-on-one interviews and data collection from Aboriginal service providers, plus a literature review, provided additional information. Reports from the MVAEC Community Forum held on March 4, 2014 and the City of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan were considered. The recommendations of this report represent the insights gained through this collaborative process.

- b. **How is your CAB working with the Designated Community to get access to data and implement Aboriginal homeless priorities?**

The extent of homelessness in the Metro Vancouver Aboriginal population is uncertain. The AHSC has employed a variety of techniques to obtain the necessary data to inform Aboriginal homelessness priorities. Complicating factors include optional self-reporting of Aboriginal status, individuals accessing multiple services, hidden homelessness, couch surfing or staying with family. In the 2011 Metro Vancouver Homelessness Count, over one in four (27% or 394) of the surveyed homeless population self-identified as Aboriginal. This count did not include several shelters and the figure is not representative. The Aboriginal homeless population had a higher female ratio

(38%) and a lower senior ratio (8%) than the general homeless population. People of Aboriginal ancestry represented a majority (52%) of youth aged 13 to 24 and 28% of all unaccompanied children. In the City of Vancouver 2012 Homelessness count, 32% of the homeless were Aboriginal, but only 2% of the population is Aboriginal. Other complexities include the legacy of residential schools, isolation and extreme poverty on some First Nation reserves, prevalent health issues and rates of addiction that are higher than the general population. The uniqueness of these issues warrants a culturally specialized, holistic and informed approach with the understanding that the urban Aboriginal population is made up of multiple nations and cultural strengths while facing ongoing systemic barriers to housing, health and wellbeing.

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 will access to support your Housing First and other homelessness effort.**

How many have you identified? 24

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
Provincial Housing Strategy (Housing Matters BC) - In 2006, the Province launched Housing Matters BC, the Provincial Housing Strategy. Within the context of Housing Matters BC - homelessness was identified as one of the key priority areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Rent supplements
Homeless Outreach Program (Province) - Introduced by the Province in 2006 and expanded in 2007. Provides funding support for outreach workers and case managers across Metro Vancouver.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Social integration
Mental Health 5 Year Housing Plan - Fraser Health - provide leadership and recommendations toward the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of a Fraser Health Housing plan for Mental Health Services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Mental health - Social integration
Shelter Net BC/Shelter Planning Group - Prepared a Shelter Strategy in 2006 that supported a Housing First approach to ending homelessness while meeting urgent shelter needs for sub-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social housing - Social integration

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
populations and sub-regions.	
Mental Health and Addiction Services Strat Plan, FHA -Strategies consistent with Housing First, including expanded outreach services, supportive housing, access to mental health and addiction services, prevention and promotion of public awareness.	- Mental health
Assertive Community Treatment Teams; Intensive Case Management Teams FHA; VCH -continue to operate in Vancouver, Surrey, New Westminster and Tri Cities.	- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team
Transitioning to Independence (TIP) and Transitioning to Independence for Pregnant and Parenting Youth (TIPPY) - rent supplements and support services from a housing outreach worker.	- Rent supplements
Innerecity Youth Mental Health Program VCH - team members deliver clinical appointments and facilitate groups at 6 downtown sites.	- Mental health - Healthcare - Social integration
Streethome Foundation - more than 1,100 supportive housing units for homeless adults, youth and women in Vancouver.	- Social housing
Local Plans - Regional Affordable Housing Strategy (November 2007) , Local Housing Action Plans , GVSS – Extreme Weather Response (Community Plans)	- Social housing - Social integration
City of Vancouver Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan - Still in draft at February 2014, the plan focuses on improving the diversity of affordable market and non-market options in the DTES neighbourhood.	- Social housing - Mental health - Addictions - Healthcare - Income supports - Social integration
Urban Aboriginal Strategy (Federal) - Federal Gov't partners with Aboriginal communities and local organizations, municipal and provincial gov'ts, and the private sector to support projects that respond to local priorities and activities.	- Employment - Education - Social integration
Aboriginal Homeless Outreach (Province) - In 2007 the Province expanded the Homeless Outreach	- Social housing - Social integration

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
Assistance to include an Aboriginal component that would target the specific needs of homeless and at risk Aboriginal people.	
National Association of Friendship Centres (Federal) - \$43 million per year (for the next two years) to the NAFC for the delivery of funding to urban Aboriginal people on April 1, 2014.	- Social integration
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre (local) - The Friendship Centre provides programs in health, welfare, social services, human rights, culture, education, recreation and equality for all genders of aboriginal people of all age groups.	- Mental health - Healthcare - Employment - Education - Social integration
Aboriginal Housing Management Association (Provincial) - oversees off reserve Aboriginal Housing throughout BC, with the goal of having all Aboriginal housing in BC owned, operated, and managed by the Aboriginal community.	- Social housing
Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council (Regional) - represents the vast majority of off-reserve, urban Aboriginal people in Metro Vancouver.	- Social integration
Women's Transition Housing and Supports (Province) - BC Housing funds Transition Houses, Safe Homes and Second Stage Housing programs that support women (with or without children) who have experienced violence or are at risk of violence.	- Social housing - Social integration
Supportive Housing Registration Service (Province) - The Supportive Housing Registration (SHR) application and registration service provides a single point of access for supportive housing funded through BC Housing.	- Social housing - Social integration
Provincial Homelessness Initiative — Single Room Occupancy Units (Province) - Purchase and renovation of existing SRO units to prevent the loss of this housing stock. There were 26 properties, 1,473 units purchased primarily in Vancouver.	- Social housing
Homeless Rent Supplement (Province) - In October 2007, the Province made \$1.1M available	- Rent supplements

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
to support the creation of 750 homeless rent supplement units. This assistance provides \$120 per month to be used in combination with other assistance.	
Provincial Homelessness Initiative (MOU) - In Oct 2007, the Province offered to partner with municipalities to make land available for supportive housing. Maple Ridge, Surrey and Vancouver have entered into MOUs with the Province.	- Social housing
Emergency Shelter Program (Province) - The Province funded emergency shelters to remain open for 24 hours per day/7 days per week, increasing the capacity of the emergency shelter system and better supporting those who are homeless.	- Social housing - Social integration
Extreme Weather Response (Province) - enables communities to temporarily increase emergency shelter capacity during extreme weather conditions that threaten the safety and health of individuals and families who are homeless.	- Social housing - Social integration

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 AHSC plan is congruent with the RSCH plan and with the Provincial direction in this area in that it is complementary to the homelessness investments of BC Housing. The overall approach is strongly aligned with the Homeless Outreach Program which refers homeless clients to permanent housing, offers or refers them support services to stay housed, provides housing subsidy where required, supports the client to set goals and achieve those goals, and mediates relationships with landlords. The Emergency Shelter Program refers clients to permanent housing, supports the client to set goals and creates a plan to meet those goals, refers the client to support

services as required by the client. MOUs between local governments and BC Housing have established supportive housing in Surrey, Vancouver and Maple Ridge. In the coming years the provincial housing authority will be supporting scattered site supportive housing through the provision of subsidies for market rental housing as more private market rental units become available. The AHSC plan, in lock step with the RHSC, supports these priorities.

c. The Housing First approach requires access to a range of client supports. How will you engage (or how are you engaging) provincial or territorial programs to facilitate access to provincial/territorial services for Housing First clients?

The AHSC will work with the RSCH to create access to a range of client supports. During the transition year, the AHSC will work with the RSCH, its CAB and CE, to consult with the BC Housing and the Aboriginal Housing Management Association to determine how to transition clients receiving HPS subsidy onto provincial subsidy. We will explore integration of the existing housing registry with HPS-funded agencies to both access and contribute to, review existing practices in client prioritization, client tracking and monitoring, and explore interest and capacity to align outcome reporting platforms like the Homeless Services System and HIFIS to streamline reporting for funded organizations and enhance regional data on Housing First readiness and regional client outcomes. The AHSC will also explore other IT reporting platforms that support the Housing First initiative and are Aboriginal client-focused to ensure system integration is achieved. The AHSC, in collaboration with the RSCH, will consult with the housing authority on alignment with provincial funding priorities and programs once the existing strategy has been updated.

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 Aboriginal Homelessness (AH) 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*	40% AH	40% AH	40% AH	40% AH	40% AH	% of HF Funds by activity selected (Related to 2014-2015 only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15%: HF Readiness † • 30%: Client Intake & Assessment § • 15%: Connecting to and Maintaining Permanent Housing ** • 25%: Accessing Services through case management †† • 15%: Data, Tracking & Monitoring †† 	
To improve the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and those at imminent risk of homelessness through	40% AH	40% AH	40% AH	40% AH	40% AH	Connecting clients to income supports	28 people will increase their income or income stability.
						Life skills development (e.g. budgeting, cooking)	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
						Supports to improve client's social integration	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
						Culturally relevant responses to help Aboriginal clients	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Aboriginal Homelessness (AH) 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		
individualized services †						Liaise and refer to appropriate resources	28 people will remain housed at three months after receiving a housing loss prevention intervention.
						Housing loss prevention (only for individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness)	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
						Basic or urgent needs services	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
To preserve or increase the capacity of facilities used to address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.	10% AH	10% AH	10% AH	10% AH	10% AH	Transitional housing facilities	0 new transitional housing units will be added to a new or existing housing unit.
						Supportive housing facilities	0 new permanent support housing units will be added to a new or existing housing unit.
						Emergency shelter facilities	0 new emergency shelter beds will be added to an existing emergency shelter.

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Aboriginal Homelessness (AH) 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 ensure coordination of resources and leveraging	5% AH	5% AH	5% AH	5% AH	5% AH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determining a model in support of a broader systematic approach to addressing homelessness - Identifying, integrating and improving services (including staff training on activities and functions in support of a systems approach to homelessness) - Partnership and development in support of systems approach to homelessness - Working with the housing sector to identify opportunities for and barriers to permanent housing (e.g. establishing landlord relationships, mapping of current available assets) in support of a broader systematic approach to addressing homelessness - Consultation, coordination, planning, and assessment (e.g. community planning) 	The HPS has not asked for targets related to these activities.

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Aboriginal Homelessness (AH) 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 improve data collection and use	5% AH	5% AH	5% AH	5% AH	5% AH	- Identifying the size and make-up of the entire homeless population - Community indicators (beyond the requirements for HPS) - Information collection and sharing (including implementing and using HIFIS)	The HPS has not asked for targets related to these activities.

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.**
- ‡ **Housing First readiness activities include:**
 - **Determining the Housing First model (e.g. consultation, coordination, planning, and assessment)**
 - **Identifying, integrating and improving services (including staff training on Housing First activities and functions)**
 - **Partnership development in support of a Housing First approach**
 - **Working with the housing sector to identify opportunities for and barriers to permanent housing (e.g. establishing landlord relationships, mapping of current available assets)**
- § **Client intake and assessment activities include:**
 - **Coordinated intake management (where feasible)**
 - **Client identification, intake and assessment, focusing on the chronically and episodically homeless populations.**
- ** **Connecting to and maintaining permanent housing require communities to establish housing teams that implement the following activities:**
 - **Facilitate access to housing, which could include providing emergency housing funding to bridge clients to**

provincial/territorial system

- **Set-up apartments (insurance, damage deposit, first and last months' rent, basic groceries and supplies at move-in, etc.)**
- **Furnish apartments for HF clients (furniture, dishes, etc.)**
- **Repair damages caused by HF clients**
- **Provide Landlord-tenant services**
- **Re-housing (if 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**

†† Data, tracking, and monitoring activities include:

- **Identifying the size and make-up of the chronically and episodically homeless population by accessing shelter data**
- **Tracking HF Clients**

† 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 for the AHSC because of the high proportion of Aboriginal homeless individuals who are chronically or episodically homeless in Metro Vancouver. The AHSC advocates a “No Wrong Door” approach to ensure that regardless of where an individual enters the system, they are directed to the appropriate resources and supports through a centralized, culturally sensitive case management system. Using technology to facilitate collective case management, clients will be better served across service providers, and accurate data can be collected to better understand needs.

By implementing a Housing First approach, AHSC expects to see long-term success with chronically and episodically homeless clients and achieve the benefits other jurisdictions have experienced by implementing this type of approach. The AHSC supports a range of culturally appropriate resources and programming that lead to increased self-reliance, personal growth and success for individuals and families experiencing episodic or chronic homelessness. Through Housing First, the AHSC will invest in these priorities and will link with the RHSC and other partners to ensure that cohesive supports are provided. It is the hope that by implementing a Housing First approach, the cycle of homelessness can be broken. A number of the investments from the AHSC provide culturally appropriate support for individuals living in supportive and permanent housing within the Aboriginal community.

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

- **HF Readiness**

The AHSC has been working with the RSCH and other stakeholders to leverage resources to support Aboriginal chronically and episodically homeless individuals. We will work together in the future to collect Aboriginal status and situational information. All funded AHSC programs will be culturally sensitive, respectful and relevant.

- **Client Intake & Assessment**

The AHSC will be working together to develop client intake and assessment procedures that respect Aboriginal culture and unique circumstances. Our goal of a “No Wrong Door” approach will ensure that regardless of where an individual enters the system, they are directed to the appropriate resources and

supports through a culturally appropriate and sensitive centralized case management system.

- **Connecting to and Maintaining Permanent Housing**

Within the Aboriginal community, there are currently some transitional and supportive housing units in existence. The AHSC will work with these providers to identify and dedicate some space for use with the Housing First clients. They will also work to identify additional permanent housing stock within culturally appropriate neighbourhoods.

- **Accessing Services**

All of the Aboriginal support services work closely together to ensure coordination. Our goal of a “No Wrong Door” approach will further enhance this system by ensuring that regardless of where an individual enters the system, they are directed to the appropriate resources and supports through a culturally appropriate and sensitive centralized case management system.

- **Data, Tracking & Monitoring**

In good faith the AHSC will work with the RHSC to explore the potential of HIFIS as a potential mechanism for centralized case management to enable tracking of HPS-funded clients across service agencies and facility operators. We recognize that it is important in this process is to identify a centralized case management system that is most likely to be used by the sector in the future, and has potential to allow for cross-agency data sharing. We also recognize that significant work is already under way by the Health Authorities to collaborate and share some aspects of client data among service delivery partners. Data partnerships will be explored with the different organizations to enhance coordination of data to track results.

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.

The AHSC will create a “No Wrong Door” type of intake whereby regardless of where an individual enters the system, they will be directed and supported to the appropriate services. Housing First Community Navigators will support clients transit the system using a centralized case management system, helping to reduce redundancy and improve the accuracy of the Housing First referral approach. The Community Navigator will work with the client to identify his or her housing needs, and will then identify options that meet the needs expressed by the client and work with the client to secure housing with case management. The Community Navigator will also work with the client on achieving their goals

and connecting them to the required services. Services will be delivered using an Aboriginal approach.

Services will be available to support clients in a culturally appropriate and sensitive, integrated fashion. Using the medicine wheel, services will focus on physical, mental, spiritual and community connections and healing. Services will include traditional teaching, healing circles, cultural activities mentoring from Elders, peer mentoring, as well as more traditional western approaches. The service providers will work with the client regularly to assess their progress and determine whether they require additional HF supports.

Target Group(s)

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

- Chronically homeless individuals
- Episodically homeless individuals

Individualized Services priorities

Rationale

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

It was clear from the consultation process that individualized services for Aboriginal people who are homeless is a critical element of any solution.

By implementing a Housing First approach, AHSC expects to see long-term success with chronically and episodically homeless clients and achieve the benefits other jurisdictions have experienced by implementing this type of approach. The AHSC supports a range of culturally appropriate resources and programming that lead to increased self-reliance, personal growth and success for individuals and families experiencing episodic or chronic homelessness. Through Housing First, the AHSC will invest in these priorities and will link with the RHSC and other partners to ensure that cohesive supports are provided. It is the hope that by ensuring that individualized services are provided, the cycle of homelessness can be broken. A number of the investments from the AHSC provide culturally appropriate support for individuals living in supportive and permanent housing within the Aboriginal community.

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.

- Aboriginal people

Facilities priorities

Rationale

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

The consultation process identified strongly a need for Aboriginal culturally appropriate housing stock. Unfortunately, the Aboriginal Community does not have the ability to add new transitional housing units, permanent support housing units or emergency shelter beds due to a lack of funding and the high cost of housing in Metro Vancouver. Instead, the AHSC will look to build partnerships with non Aboriginal service providers, BC Housing and landlords to increase housing stock opportunities for Aboriginal people. Where existing housing stock is available, the AHSC will invest to improve the quality and capacity of services.

Long term, the AHSC is hopeful that some capital investment dollars will emerge at all three levels of government to support new Aboriginal specific housing units.

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.

- Aboriginal people

Coordination of Resources and Leveraging 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.

The AHSC supports a range of culturally appropriate resources and programming that lead to increased self-reliance, personal growth and success for individuals and families experiencing episodic or chronic homelessness. Through Housing First, the AHSC will invest in these priorities and will link with the RHSC and other partners to ensure that cohesive supports are provided.

The AHSC's governance model and the members' commitment to Aboriginal Housing First priorities ensures that all players will actively work to coordinate service. Specific identified areas of focus include identifying, integrating and improving services, developing partnerships, and identifying opportunities for and barriers to permanent housing.

Data Collection and Use 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.

It was clear from the AHSC consultation process that data collection is of paramount importance. In particular, the AHSC determined that it is critical that they collect and manage their own data. The process highlighted the need to use technology to facilitate collective case management so that, clients will be better served across service providers, and accurate data is collected to better understand needs.

The AHSC will explore integration of the existing housing registry with HPS-funded agencies to both access and contribute to existing practices in client prioritization, client tracking and monitoring, and explore interest and capacity. Information collected will be used to populate the Homeless Services System and HIFIS to streamline reporting for funded organizations and enhance regional data on Housing First readiness and regional client outcomes.

Outside of the Housing First funding, the AHSC will explore other IT reporting solutions that support the Housing First initiative and are Aboriginal client-focused to ensure system integration is achieved.