

March 29, 2016

Homelessness Action Plan

Establishing a comprehensive community response system that helps people obtain and retain safe, affordable, appropriate housing



CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Reasons for Being Homeless

In the 2014 FVRD Homeless Survey for Chilliwack, which of the following reasons for being homeless was most cited by respondents?

1. Inadequate income

2. Addictions

3. Criminal history

4. Family breakdown / abuse / conflict

Ending Homelessness

According to the 2014 Homelessness Survey for Chilliwack, what was the thing most cited by respondents that would end homelessness for them?

1. Employment
2. Support / Advocacy
3. Overcoming addictions
- 4. Affordable Housing**

Households in Core Housing Need

If one of these standards is not met:

- **Adequacy**

does not require major repairs

- **Affordability**

costs less than 30% or less of before-tax income

- **Suitability**

has enough bedrooms for the household size



Households in Core Housing Needs

Out of 25,490 households in Chilliwack, how many were in core housing need in 2011?

1. 729

2. 1,345

3. 2,795

4. 5,123

Renters in Core Housing Need

What percentage of renters were in core need in 2011?

1. 11%

2. 17%

3. 31%

4. 42%

Financial cost of Homelessness

What is the average yearly cost of housing someone while homeless?

1. \$12,000
2. \$60,000
3. \$100,000

4. \$160,000



HOMELESSNESS 101

- What is homelessness?
- Homelessness Glossary
- Definition of Homelessness
- Typology
- Causes Of Homelessness
- Who is homeless?
- How many people are homeless in Canada?
- [Cost Analysis Of Homelessness](#)
- Myths and Questions About Homelessness
- Can we end homelessness?
- What needs to be done to end homelessness?
- Plans to End Homelessness
- Monitoring Progress
- Research

TOPICS

STORIES

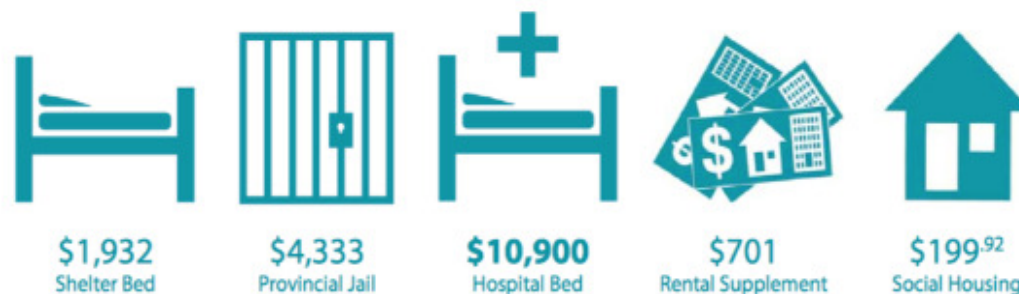
Cost Analysis Of Homelessness

As of 2013, [homelessness cost the Canadian economy \\$7.05 billion annually](#) (up from [\\$4.5-6 billion in 2007](#)). This includes provision of emergency shelters and community supports, but also accounts for the increased costs of emergency services (including fire, police and EMS), health care, the criminal justice system etc.

Significant research has been done that explores the cost of housing someone in jail, hospitals or the shelter system compared to housing them in social or supportive housing. The difference is quite shocking. In a 2005 study by Pomeroy which looked at costs in four Canadian cities, institutional responses (jails, hospitals etc.) cost \$66,000-\$120,000 annually, emergency shelters cost \$13,000-\$42,000 annually whereas supportive and transitional housing cost \$13,000-\$18,000 and affordable housing without supports was a mere \$5,000-\$8,000.

This cost analysis doesn't look at the social and human costs. Not only is putting someone in housing cheaper, it is also much more humane. The longer someone remains homeless the greater likelihood that their physical and mental health will deteriorate and there is an increased chance of an early death.

AVERAGE MONTHLY COST OF HOUSING SOMEONE WHILE HOMELESS



Homelessness Action Plan

Ann Davis BC Housing Chamber of Commerce Chilliwack & District Seniors Resource Society
Chilliwack Addiction & Prevention Services Chilliwack Child & Youth Committee Chilliwack
Community Services Chilliwack Healthier Community Chilliwack Supportive Housing Society
Chilliwack Society for Community Living Cyrus Centre First Nations Health Authority

“No single agency can
tackle this alone.”

Fraser Health Authority GT Hiring Solutions Ministry for Children & Family Development
Pacific Community Resources Society RCMP Ruth & Naomi's Mission Salvation Army
United Way

Project Objectives

- Clearly communicate the reasons for, and challenges with addressing homelessness
- Establish clear goals, measurable objectives, and specific actions to prevent homelessness or ensure it is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience
- Build on past and current affordable housing initiatives



Homelessness Action Plan Timeline

Task Force
Established
Fall 2015

Stakeholder
Engagement
December
2015

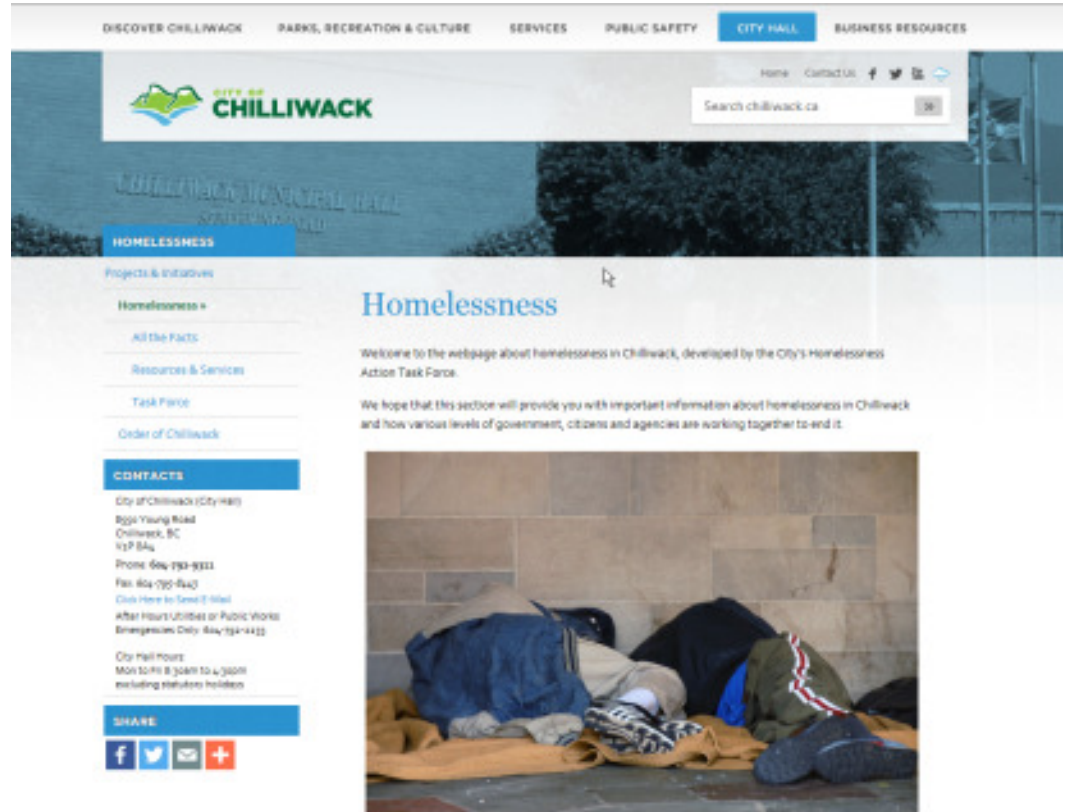
Draft Plan
January to
March 2016

Community
Engagement
March
2016

Finalize Plan
April 2016

Communications

- Website
- Resources card
- Article series (CHC)
- Media Releases

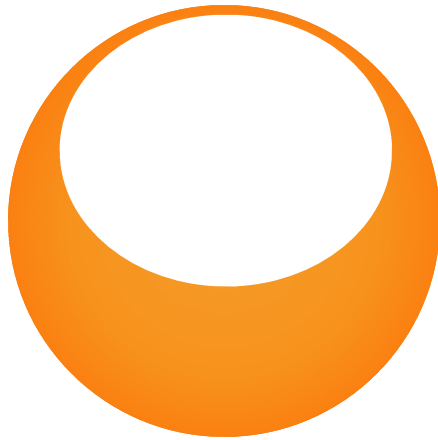



Vision

Establish a comprehensive community response system to help people obtain & retain safe, affordable, appropriate housing



PATHWAYS INTO HOMELESSNESS

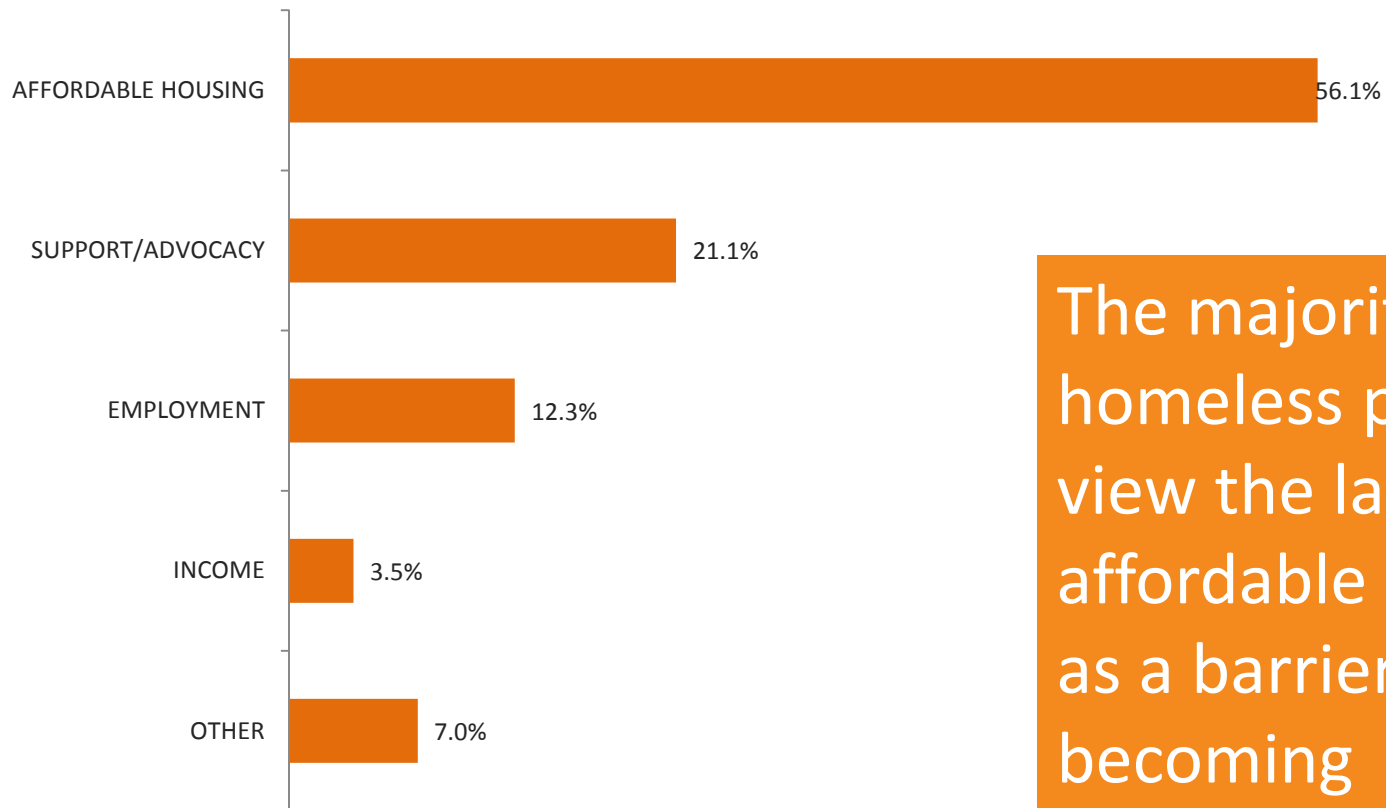


- Inadequate income / rent too high
 - Housing Barriers
 - Addictions
 - Family Breakdown/abuse/conflict
 - Mental Health
 - Health or disability
 - Evictions
 - Criminal history
 - Poor housing conditions
 - Pets
- 



FVRD 2014 Homelessness Survey - Chilliwack

What one thing would help end Homelessness for you?

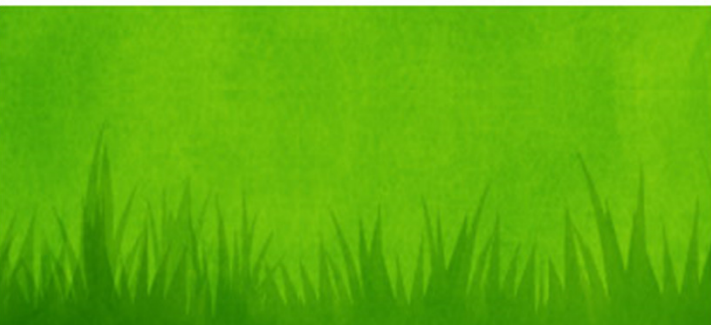


The majority of homeless persons view the lack of affordable housing as a barrier to becoming permanently housed.

Complicating Factors

- Complex issue & support needs
- Barriers
- Ownership of issue
- Privacy legislation
- Market conditions
- Public opinion / NIMBY
- Safety
- Distrust / Fear / Anger amongst vulnerable groups

Adequate outreach is essential



Effective Strategies

Here

- Every Door is the Right Door
- Rental housing lists
- Collaboration – non profits, CYC, CHC
- City supports for affordable housing
- Successful housing projects & programs
- Needle exchange bus
- Service hub models

Elsewhere

- Housing First
- Employment First
- Resources Card
- Yes In My Backyard
- Community empowerment

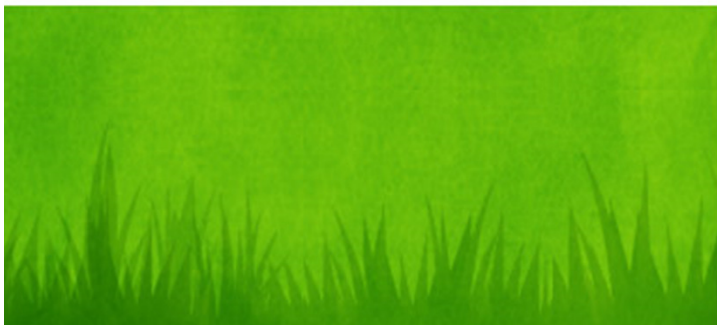
Goal 1: Advocate for a Housing First program for Chilliwack

Establish a coordinated system for moving people out of homelessness or unsafe housing to housing that is safe, affordable, and appropriate for their needs as quickly as possible.

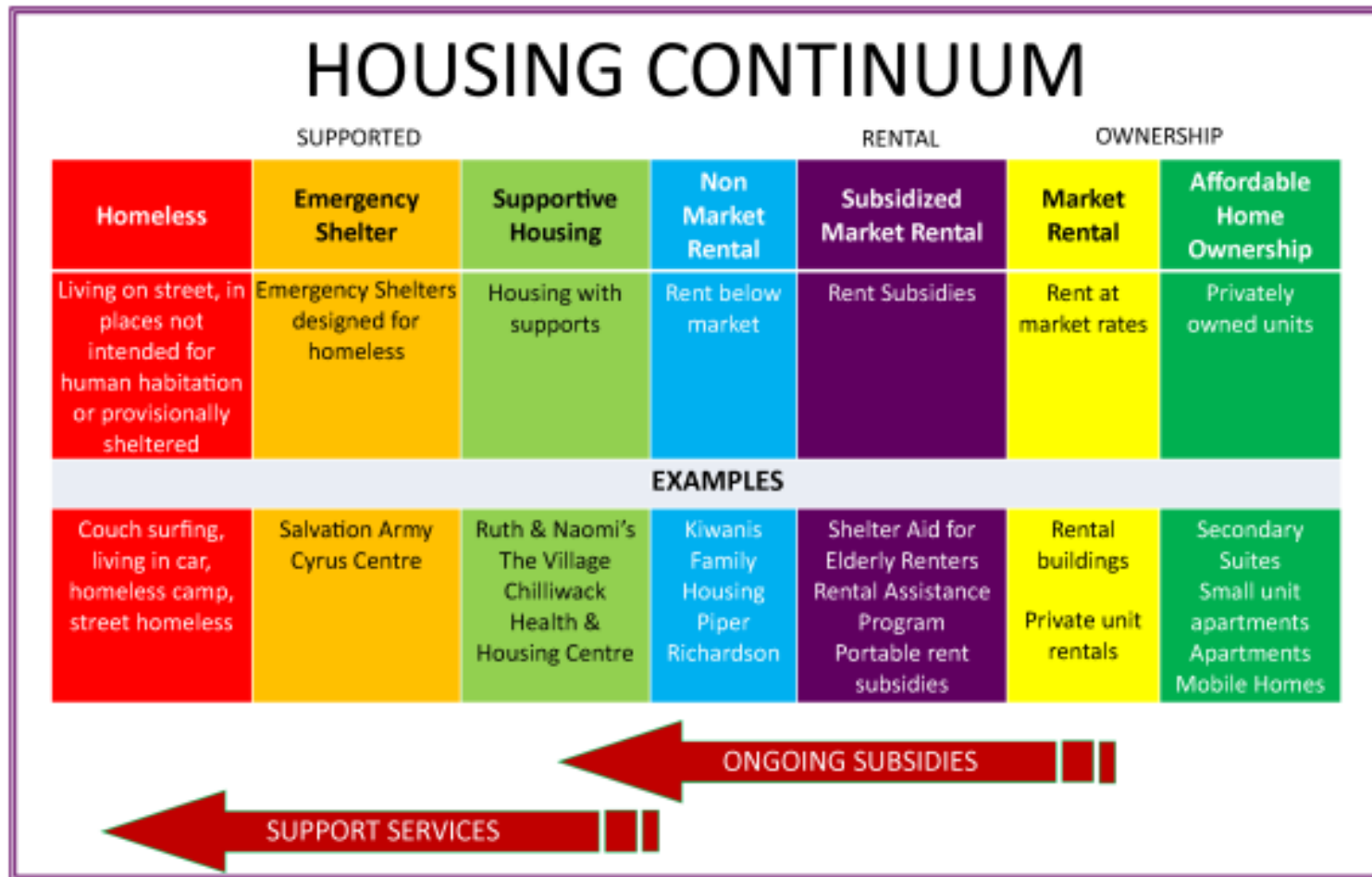


What's needed?

- Affordable market rentals
- Rent subsidies
- Supportive housing
- Landlord supports
- Increased senior government funding for rent subsidies, outreach, and wrap around tenant support services / intensive case management



Goal 2: Increase the supply of affordable rental housing across the housing continuum



Goal 3: Increased coordination amongst agencies



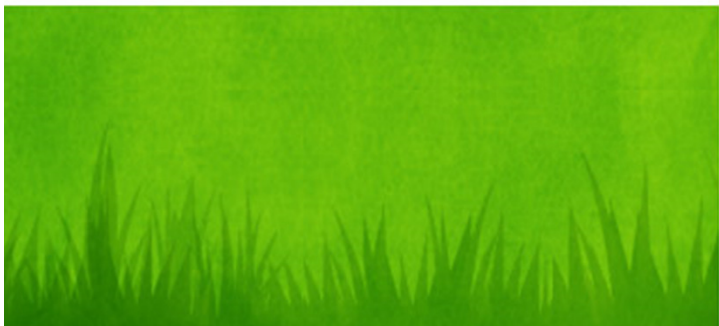
- Avoid discharge from care to homelessness
- Focus programs on early intervention
- Address existing housing barriers
- Increase information sharing
- Chilliwack Connect services on an ongoing basis
- Follow-up system for local housing and support workers



Goal 4: Improve Health & Safety



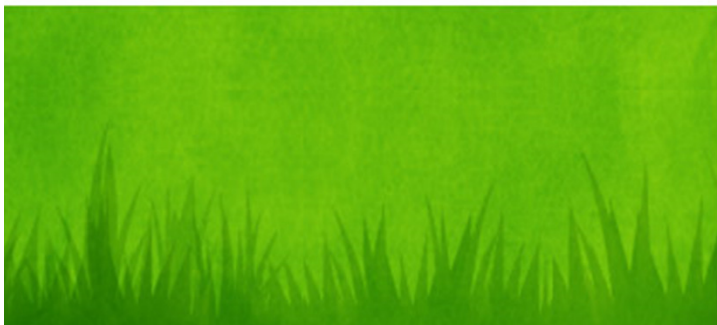
- Multi-agency homeless outreach response to ensure individual and public safety
- Develop & implement strategies to deter exploitation & victimization of vulnerable individuals
- Continued building health & safety inspections



Goal 5: Build community awareness & support



- Work with community partners to raise awareness about:
 - Affordable housing needs in Chilliwack
 - Resources available currently
 - Risk factors
 - Early intervention
 - How residents can contribute
- Develop a resources card



Goal 6: Support initiatives that build self esteem & support economic self sufficiency



- Community collaboration on:
 - Employment First initiative
 - Youth skills training and work experience programs
 - Building community support: Yes In My Backyard
- City will continue to invest in economic development
- Advocate with senior levels of government re: income and shelter assistance rates and minimum wage levels



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES IN HOUSING

MUNICIPAL

- Establishes affordable housing policy, bylaws & zoning
- Advocates for funding from senior levels of government
- Fee waivers and tax exemptions for non-profit housing

PROVINCIAL

- Funds housing projects, homeless outreach, rent subsidies, income assistance, health & social services
- Regulates assisted living housing and community care facilities

FRASER HEALTH

- Plans, funds, implements mental health, addiction prevention, withdrawal management

FEDERAL

- Homelessness Partnering Strategy (housing & programs) for designated or rural communities
- CMHC market reports & mortgage loan insurance

HOUSING & SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Initiate, sponsor, operate housing projects
- Delivers services

COMMUNITY

- Provides donations and volunteer time with non profits
- Assists with community acceptance of new housing projects

OTHERS

- RCMP
- First Nations Health Authority



Finalizing the Action Plan

March

- Stakeholder referrals
 - Fine tuning actions, roles, timelines, measures
- Website ww.chilliwack.com/homeless
- Public meeting March 29

April

- Plan finalization and adoption

