

At Home in Medicine Hat: People, Planning, Policy & Politics

APPI

April 1st, 2017
Vancouver BC



Medicine Hat

Southeast Alberta: Trans-Canada Highway



Medicine Hat

Population: 63, 260



Medicine Hat

Growing and Expanding



Medicine Hat

330 Days of Sunshine



Medicine Hat

The Medicine Hat Community Housing Society

1. Not-for-Profit + Registered Charity

2. 2 Core Business Functions:

- Housing Management Body (HMB)
- Community Based Organization/CE

3. Funding Investments:

- HMB – AB Seniors and Housing
- CBO/CE – Provincial: AB Community and Social Services Ministry **\$2.9M**
 - Federal: HPS **\$500K**

4. The Reach:

- At Home in Medicine Hat: Our Plan to End Homelessness
- THRIVE Medicine Hat & Region Plan to End Poverty & Increase Wellbeing
- Affordable Housing Plan

Ending Homelessness

Ending homelessness in Medicine Hat means that no one in our community will have to live in emergency shelters or sleep rough for more than **10 days** before they have access to stable housing and the supports they need to maintain it.

- 1. System Planning**
- 2. Housing and Supports**
- 3. Systems Integration and Prevention**
- 4. Data and Research**
- 5. Leadership and Sustainability**

Housing First –by the Numbers

From Program Inception: April 1, 2009 – February 28, 2017

Total Housed in Period	1084	
Total Adults Housed	770	
Total Dependents Housed (children)	314	
Demographics of Participants Housed in Period**		
Gender	Women: 381 (49%) Men: 385 (50%) Unreported: 4 (0.5%)	
Ethnicity	Caucasian: 565 (73%) Aboriginal: 89 (12%) Other: 55 (7%) No response: 3 (0.4%) Unreported: 57 (7%)	
Age	<18:9 (1%)	18-24: 165 (21%)
	25-35: 238 (31%)	36-50: 239 (31%)
	51-65: 112 (15%)	65+: 7 (1%)
Chronically homeless participants housed	263 (34%)	
Episodically homeless participants housed	507 (66%)	
Veterans	18 (2%)	
Outcomes		
Exits in Period	674	
Successful Exits in Period	462	
Continuing Participants	96	

System Utilization

1. It works. We have the **data** to back it.
2. Shelter usage and rough sleeping has gone down significantly over the past 6 years.
3. 75% of the service participants successfully exit the program and maintain their housing stability.

Utilization of Public Systems in Housing First (2009-2016) N=705

	Intake	In Program	Estimated Reduction
Days in Hospital	5,989	4,003	-33%
EMS Interactions	654	625	-4%
ER Use	1,734	1,472	-15%
Days in Jail	11,294	3,050	-73%
Police Interactions	2,160	2,851	+32%
Court Appearances	1,050	1,156	+10%

Note: The data represents 100% of adults housed through the Housing First programs and who have exited the program (successfully and unsuccessfully) and those who remain in program. Assessments are completed at with each adult at 3 month intervals and spans the duration of time in program.

Elements for Success

1. **Local/Provincial/Federal Leadership and Investments**
2. **7 Cities on Housing and Homelessness: the Role of Community Based Organizations (CBO) and/or Community Entities (CE)**
3. **Strategic Areas of Investments**
4. **Flexibility and Responsiveness to Community Need (versus reactive)**
5. **Centralized or Coordinated Intake Processes**
6. **Integration**
7. **Ego** (Kindly place it at the door, preferable when you walk into a room.)

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**“If you want to be innovative, you
have to be prepared to fail.”** Stein.

