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

APPI

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# The Vantage Point: 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 Supports \$2.9M
  - Federal: HPS \$500K

#### 4. The Reach:

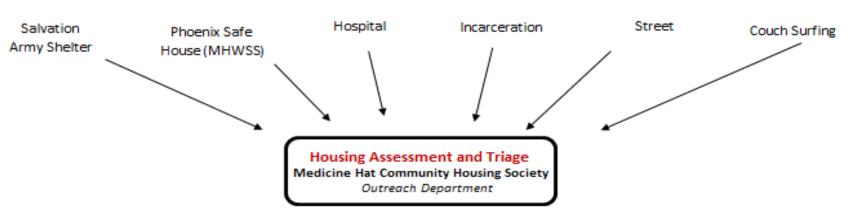
- At Home in Medicine Hat: Our Plan to End Homelessness
- THRIVE Medicine Hat & Region Plan to End Poverty & Increase Wellbeing
- Affordable Housing Plan

### **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

#### Individuals that are Homeless or at Risk of Homelessness



HAT also provides diversion efforts to help support those individuals that do not require the intensive case management supports of the housing first/rapid rehousing programs. Individuals in community that are experiencing homelessness start the process of accessing supports by meeting with the Housing Assessment and Triage (HAT) program at MHCHS. HAT uses an assessment tool to determine the level of need and refers the individual to the appropriate program.

HAT also provides community referrals and other resources to help support those individuals that do not require the intensive case management supports of the housing first/rapid re-housing programs.

#### Housing First Program

Canadian Mental Health Association

CMHA is the newest organization to deliver Housing First in community; this program provides intensive case management; it serves individuals with an acuity of 35-60. Housing First programs provide case management supports for approximately 12-18 months.

#### **Housing First Program**

Medicine Hat Women's Shelter Society

MHWSS Housing First program provides intensive case management with a focus on women/families fleeing family violence. This program serves individuals with an acuity of 35-60. Housing First programs provide case management supports for approximately 12-18 months.

#### Rapid Re-Housing Program

Medicine Hat Community Housing Society
Outreach Department

MHCHS Rapid Re-Housing program provides intensive case management to individuals; it serves individuals with an acuity of 20-34. These individuals receive case management supports for approximately 4-6 months





## Housing First –by the Numbers

*Numbers include 2 Housing First Teams and 1 Rapid R	e-Housing Team unless	otherwise specified
Total Housed in Period	1084	
Total Individuals Housed in a Period	770	
Total Dependents Housed (children)	314	
Demographics of Participants Housed in Period**		
Gender	Women: 381 <b>(49%)</b> Men: 385 <b>(50%)</b> Unreported: 4 <b>(0.5%)</b>	
Ethnicity	Caucasian: 565 (73%) Aboriginal: 89 (12%) Other: 55 (7%) No response: 3 (0.4%) Unreported: 57 (7%)	
Age	<18: 9 (1%) 25-35: 238 (31%) 51-65: 112 (15%)	18-24: 165 (21%) 36-50: 239 (31%) 65+: 7 (1%)
Chronically Homeless participants housed in period	263 (34%)	
Episodically Homeless Participants housed in period	507 (66%)	
Veterans	18 (2%)	
Outcomes		
Provincial Retention Rate Calculation % participants served in period who have successfully exited the program or remain housed as program participants. Calculation excludes exits due to death	74%	
Exits in Period	674	
Successful Exits in Period	462	
Continuing Participants	96	

### System Utilization

- 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
5,989	4,003	-33%
654	625	-4%
1,734	1,472	-15%
11,294	3,050	-73%
2,160	2,851	+32%
1,050	1,156	+10%
	5,989 <b>654</b> 1,734 <b>11,294</b> 2,160	5,989 4,003 654 625 1,734 1,472 11,294 3,050 2,160 2,851

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.



