

Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014–2019

Community: *Dufferin*

Region: *Ontario*

The plan has been approved by Canada for implementation.
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Case: As this Designated Community's allocation is under \$200,000, it is encouraged, but not required to commit to move to a Housing First approach.

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

Community Advisory Board Membership

- 1. Name of the Community Advisory Board:** Dufferin CAB
- 2. Number of members in your CAB:** 11

Community Advisory Board Membership					
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
Chandler	Sheryl		- Housing and social housing	Co-chair	Yes
Burman	Brenda		- Non-profit	Co-chair	Yes
McDonald	Kathryn		- Non-profit	Member	No
Decker	Carsen		- Housing and social housing	Member	No
Bull	Bri		- Non-profit	Member	No
Byers	Amanda		- Housing and social housing	Member	No
Smith	Tim		- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No
Cornish	Paula		- Housing and social housing	Member	No
Allen	Lyn		- Housing and social housing	Member	No
Glassford	Janice		- Housing and social housing	Member	No
Tripp-McKay	Eric		- Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment	Member	No

3. Are there any sectors or organizations the CAB needs to include 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)

No

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.**

The CAB used a number of resources and different approaches when preparing to create the Community Plan. It was important to the CAB that the information used would be specific to the community being serviced and the residents within it. Subsequent input from community members was received through two community forums. Both forums involved agencies as well as private community members. CAB also consulted the recently completed Dufferin 10 Year Homelessness and Housing Plan. Information for the plan was gathered using community consultation and current statistics. In 2013 CAB commissioned a research study of homelessness in Dufferin. The consultation group gathered their information through surveys, interviews, public statistics and community sessions. From this study CAB has been able to access local, qualitative and quantitative information, to bring forth during discussion around the Community Plan. The CAB is using all information previously described to create a Community Plan that supports the specific needs of Dufferin County while it continues to address poverty and homeless.

- b. **How is the CAB working with the Aboriginal sector and/or local Aboriginal CAB to identify and implement Aboriginal homelessness priorities?**

The County of Dufferin does not have a specific policy for Aboriginal Peoples living off-reserve. According to the 2011 National Household Survey there are approximately 695 people in Dufferin identifying themselves aboriginal. This is less than 1% of the population of the County. The County's Community Services Department has not had any requests for services geared towards Aboriginal peoples. The County will continue to encourage Aboriginal participation on community advisory boards and within other community agencies as its population in the County continues to grow.

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 are aware of, related to your homelessness strategy.**

How many have you identified? 1

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing	- Social housing - Rent supplements

- 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 Province's direction is also Housing First. As such, the program goals are completely in synch with the goals of the HPS Renewal.

3. Community Contribution

As part of the eligibility for HPS Designated Community funding, each community must be able to demonstrate that it has mobilized funding partners to contribute to its homelessness efforts.

- **Your community must show that it can identify \$1 contributing to your homelessness efforts from other sources for every dollar in your Designated Community allocation.**
 - **The community contribution can include funding from any partner other than HPS such as: governments (Federal, Provincial/Territorial or Municipal/Regional); public institutions, such as hospitals, schools or universities; aboriginal organizations; private sector organizations; and not-for-profit/charitable sector organizations, such as foundations or the United Way.**
 - **If an organization is contributing (financial or in-kind) to more than one activity, you may combine all the amounts received and enter the information once.**
- **The Community Entity (CE) will be required to report annually on the actual amount received.**

You will be asked to provide this information during the annual update. At this time, we need information about your community contribution for 2014-2015.

- a. **How many funders have you identified? 1**

Name of Funder	Type of Funder	Contact Information		Financial Contribution	Non-Financial Contribution	Total Contribution
		Contact Person	(E-mail or Phone Number)	(dollars)	(Estimate in Dollars)	(Dollars)
County of Dufferin Community Services	Municipality	Anna McGregor	519-941-6991	500,000	2,000	502,000
Total Community Contribution (dollars)						\$502,000
HPS Designated Communities Funding Stream allocation (dollars)						\$66,929

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 Designated Community (DC) 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*	100% DC	100 % DC	100 % DC	100 % DC	100 % DC	% of HF Funds by activity selected (Related to 2014-2015 only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10%: HF Readiness ‡ ● 20%: Client Intake & Assessment § ● 10%: Connecting to and Maintaining Permanent Housing ** ● 50%: Accessing Services through case management †† ● 10%: Data, Tracking & Monitoring †† 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of individuals that will be placed in housing through an HF intervention: 15 ● Percentage of HF clients who will remain housed at six months: 80% ● Percentage of HF clients who will remain housed at twelve months: 80% ● Number of days for HF clients to move into permanent housing after intake: 60 ● Percentage of HF clients

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
							<p>who will be rehoused: 25%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Percentage of HF clients who will return to homelessness: 14% ● Percentage of HF clients who will successfully exit the program to a positive housing situation: 80%

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	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
	-	-	-	-	-		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		
To improve the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and those at imminent risk of homelessness through individualized services[†]	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		
To preserve or increase the capacity of facilities used to address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.	0 % DC	0 % DC	0 % DC	0 % DC	0 % DC		

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) 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	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		
To improve data collection and use	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		

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 was identified as an evidence-based Best Practice for Dufferin County through 2013 research into homelessness in Dufferin County as well as the research that created the 10 Long Term Housing and Homelessness Plan. In addition, there is a desire from the CAB to have our efforts in line with the priorities of funding bodies, such as the Federal and Provincial governments. In this way, we create synergies by all pulling in the same direction.

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

- **HF Readiness**
December 2013 report, THE STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN DUFFERIN, paints a picture of homelessness in Dufferin County. It was commissioned by the Community Advisory Board to provide a baseline of Dufferin-specific information, upon which to build awareness and community plans to address homelessness.
- **Client Intake & Assessment**
The networking table to address client intake and assessment across the County already exists. This is a asset to collaborative approaches.
- **Connecting to and Maintaining Permanent Housing**
One of the CAB members maintains a website which lists available housing units. This facilitates efforts to locate housing for those seeking a home. This same organization also negotiates with landlords, whether that is about payment plans for arrears or negotiating a rental amount that the client can afford.
- **Accessing Services**
Service organizations in Dufferin County already connect and collaborate on case management, especially for those clients who are chronically and episodically homeless. These agencies also work closely with Income Supports and Social Housing divisions of the municipal Community Services department.
- **Data, Tracking & Monitoring**
Effective data tracking mechanisms are already in place.

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.

Housing First Approach commences with intensive case management for the most vulnerable of the homeless, those who have and are chronically and/or episodically homeless. The approach takes a lesson from the Pareto Principle. Very simply, this concept postulates that 20% of the people we serve consume 80% of the allocated resources. Our Housing First approach will focus on this 20%. Intensive case management for these high-needs, high risk people will provide supportive, individualized service to enable them to obtain, retain and maintain housing. A round table for case management will pull in all service partners who provide supports to the client group, eg, mental health, addictions, supportive housing, income support, and the Housing First intensive case manager. This mechanism for communication will assist in creating and implementing timely solutions so clients are adequately housed.

Target Group(s)

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

- Chronically homeless individuals
- Episodically homeless individuals