

Reaching Home:

Dufferin County Homelessness Plan

2019 – 2024

Note:

All communities receiving funding from Designated Communities stream are required to use this template in order to complete the community plan under Reaching Home. In completing this template, communities are encouraged to develop comprehensive community plans that reflect the contributions of all funding partners, including other orders of governments, not-for-profit organizations, and the for-profit sector.

Please note that in communities that receive funding from both the Designated Communities and Indigenous Homelessness streams, cross-stream collaboration is expected to promote the adoption of a community-wide planning process and support the achievement of community-level outcomes reflecting the needs of the whole community. To support communities in completing their community plans, a Reference Guide has been developed. It is recommended that this be reviewed prior to completing your community's homelessness plan to ensure understanding of the requirements and completeness.

The Community Plan for Reaching Home must be approved by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) of the Designated Community before it is submitted to Service Canada. If your community is developing a joint plan with the Indigenous Community Entity, both Community Advisory Boards must approve the community plan.

In addition to the core requirements provided in this template, communities may also wish to include other components that provide insight into the community's housing and homelessness context or contribute to community-level homelessness challenges, such as a map of the community's current homelessness services and/or gaps in homelessness services or infrastructure (e.g. housing stock). Communities have full flexibility in drafting these sections.

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1. Community Engagement

Please identify the steps taken to engage your community stakeholders in developing this plan.¹

The County of Dufferin (Housing Services Division) engages in a Housing and Homelessness forum event every year. The County use this opportunity to collect data on their 10-year Housing and Homelessness plan from the community stakeholders who attend. The County of Dufferin is also the designated Service Manager (Ontario Housing Services Act) for Dufferin and as such, delivers and has oversight for housing and homelessness services with various community partners. The Community Advisory Board (CAB) and its sub committee, the Coordinated Access Table (CAT) also provide feedback to the CE regarding the need for homelessness services in the Dufferin community.

All Dufferin County Community Services staff participated in an Indigenous Blanket Exercise in 2018. The insights learned at this valuable exercise led Housing Services to host an additional Blanket Exercise for those community partners, agencies and residents in attendance at the 2018 Housing and Homelessness Forum. The theme of the Housing and Homelessness Forum, held on November 22, 2018, (to coincide with National Housing Day), was “Housing: Ever Changing.” The day included a variety of presentations. Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health presented on their Interactive Reports. There was a presentation regarding HIFIS and PiT Count Results and the County of Dufferin Housing team presented on what has changed in housing and homelessness. In the afternoon, CAB Co-Chair, White Owl Ancestry, took the attendees through the very informative Blanket Exercise. White Owl Native Ancestry is heavily engaged in the work of the CAB as they co-chair the committee. They represent Indigenous Engagement and bring forth the cultural component by providing recommendations to all aspects of the work CAB does including Housing First, the By-Name List, and Coordinated Access.

County staff are also involved with various other tables and committees that deal with housing, homelessness and poverty, most prominently the Dufferin County Equity Collaborative (DCEC) where many CAB members are also in attendance. The CE and the CAB have reviewed and approved the Community Plan.

¹ Engagement with local Indigenous organizations, and the Indigenous Community Entity and Community Advisory Board is expected in the development of this community plan.

2. Investment Plan

In the table below, please outline your planned allocation of Reaching Home funding (including funding from the Designated Community stream and Community Capacity and Innovation stream) from 2019-24 by investment area. Please note that it is acceptable that your community's funding priorities change over time. This investment plan is to demonstrate that your community has a vision moving forward for the allocation of Reaching Home funding. An example has been included in the Community Plan Reference Guide.

Annual Allocations:

2019-2020: \$188,454

2020-2021: \$178,454

2021-2022: \$202,216

2022-2023: \$197,716

2023-2024: \$197,716

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Housing Services	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Prevention and shelter diversion	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Support Services	53%	56%	59%	61%	61%
Capital Investments	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Coordination of Resources and Data Collection	32%	29%	26%	24%	24%
Administration	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

At time of writing the CAB funds Support Services. Current funding year 2019/2020 funds a Housing First Support Coordinator and with a small crisis fund. Due to the small amount the community receives, all funding that is not administration or for coordinated access (now included with Reaching Home below per contract amendment #1) goes to Support Services:

Year	Support Services	Coordinated Access	Admin	Contract Total
2019/2020	\$99,683	\$60,503	\$28,268	\$188,454
2020/2021	\$99,683	\$52,003	\$26,768	\$178,454
2021/2022	\$119,881	\$52,003	\$30,332	\$202,216
2022/2023	\$119,881	\$48,178	\$29,657	\$197,716
2023/2024	\$119,881	\$48,178	\$29,657	\$197,716
TOTAL	\$559,009	\$260,865	\$144,682	\$964,556

3. Cost-Matching Requirement

In the table below, please outline all funding for homelessness initiatives your community plans to receive from external partners from 2019 to 2024. This includes both financial and in-kind contributions. If your anticipated community contributions do not project to cost-match funding from both the Designated Community stream and Community Capacity and Innovation stream for each year, explain the circumstances below the table and include a description of the steps you will take to meet the requirement. An example has been included in the Community Plan Reference Guide.

Projected External Funding towards Homelessness Initiatives						
Funder	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2019 - 24
Province of Ontario – Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) Allocation	\$765,107	\$861,461	\$861,461	\$861,461 (estimate)	\$861,461 (estimate)	\$4,210,951 (estimate)
TOTAL	\$765,107	\$861,461	\$861,461	\$861,461 (estimate)	\$861,461 (estimate)	\$4,210,951 (estimate)

4. Coordinated Access

*Please discuss the steps you will take to implement a coordinated access system in your community. If your community has a coordinated access system in place, please describe how it presently functions. **Note:** Please also ensure you discuss how Indigenous Organizations have been engaged on the design of Coordinated Access, or how they will be engaged.*

Dufferin County is currently working with the CAB and a sub committee of CAB members who provide Homelessness Services to create and implement coordinated access. This sub committee is called the Coordinated Access Table (CAT). The CAT voted to have the County of Dufferin govern the Coordinated Access implementation with feedback being provided by members of the CAT.

The CAB is currently co-chaired by a member of the Indigenous Organization White Owl Native Ancestry. As the CAB is involved in the ongoing development of coordinated access, which involves regular communication through emails and meetings on the BNL, HIFIS and the Housing First caseload, this agency is actively engaged in the design of the above.

Training started in 2018 and will be provided on an ongoing basis, all while the By-Name-List, HIFIS and Coordinated Access are in development and being rolled out in Dufferin. Training has and will continue to involve the provision of take away training materials, presentations, training sessions at the County of Dufferin, where the training lab can be utilized, and one-to-one sessions where needed at service provider locations.

Dufferin County is working to implement HIFIS for our local agencies. Data sharing agreements are being distributed and will need to be signed by each agency. Dufferin County staff will work with each agency to customize the HIFIS 4 platform for their needs and, as noted above, provide training, documents and ongoing support. Currently Dufferin County is using HIFIS for the delivery of the Homelessness Prevention Program (Housing Stability programming).

Dufferin County launched the By-Name List on May 1, 2019. (Currently in excel. Will move fully to HIFIS when full functionality is available.) Intakes are done by referring clients to the County of Dufferin. The intake assessment is completed by Dufferin County staff and includes the Vi-SPDAT along with a Housing Needs Assessment. The Housing First Program (Support Services), which is funded by Reaching Home, receives referrals from the BNL as the caseload allows. The Coordinated Access Table (CAT) then meets 2 times a month to case conference with the Housing First program (Support Services) and to provide other supports and services to clients on the BNL. Agencies at the CAT are asked to update the status of clients on the BNL as they occur.

Dufferin County is part of the Built for Zero Canada (BFZ-C) campaign and attends monthly webinars, in person training and 1:1 coaching with the BFZ-C team.

5. Community-Wide Outcomes

If you would like your community to measure progress on additional outcomes beyond the [federally mandated outcomes](#), please identify those outcomes. Please provide your proposed indicators, targets, and methodology for each of the additional identified outcomes.

N/A

6. Official Language Minority Communities

The Government of Canada has a responsibility under the Official Languages Act to ensure that programs and services meet the needs of [Official Language Minority Communities \(OLMCs\)](#). Please describe the steps that you will take to ensure that the services funded under the Reaching Home take the needs of the [OLMCs](#) into consideration where applicable.

The County of Dufferin is committed to ensuring that we address the needs of homeless persons in both official languages. Calls for Proposals can be made available in both official languages upon request. We continue to maintain a good relationship with local Francophone Services providers. Dufferin County does not have a local Francophone Association. According to project data, in 2018-19, less than 1% of the homeless community identified as a member of the OLMCs. However, we include a clause in all sub-projects agreements to ensure that service providers are prepared to offer services in French, should there be a request. We also have good connections with a local Immigration Assistance Organization that can help individuals access translation supports. We will continue to monitor that service providers are meeting this clause, and we will continue to monitor the demand for services in the official minority language on an ongoing basis so that a right mix of sub-projects is in place to support the OLMCs.

Note: ESDC has removed all personal and identifying information for members of the Community Advisory Board from this document. To validate or change this information, please contact your Service Canada representative