HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN

District of Nipissing Social
Services Administration Board

2021

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1.0 Purpose

This paper follows up on the previous report, *Homelessness Landscape in Nipissing District* (Sept. 2021) and presents an action framework to address local homelessness over the next 12 months. The framework provides a clear path of action for staff and the Board to follow, which is realistic, attainable, and within the Board's scope of responsibility and strategic direction.

The action framework reassesses the homelessness landscape and problem, and the current strategies and investments underway in this area. The framework draws from the Board's 10-year housing and homelessness plan, *A Place to Call Home (2014-2024)* with an emphasis on shelter diversion, improving housing stability, and increasing local housing options. The framework is also influenced by additional data and evidence gathered since the development of the 10-year housing and homelessness plan, including the recent Homelessness Prevention Framework and Priorities set by the Nipissing District Homelessness and Housing Partnership/ CAB membership (see Appendix A), and the September Board report.

Specifically, the plan lays out an action framework for the following priorities over the next 12 months:

- Establish a coordinated system of outreach supports to quickly connect unsheltered homeless individuals with housing and health services and programs.
- Develop a shelter system that is innovative, cost-effective, and easy to access, to provide housing stability and rapid re-housing as required.
- Create dynamic transitional and supportive housing that stabilizes individuals and promotes life skills development and independent living.
- Provide a suite of coordinated homelessness prevention programs and services that will provide long-term stabilization and security to households and individuals at-risk of homelessness.
- Conduct advanced data collection and analysis on the homeless population that supports evidence-based decision-making and enables the measurement of progress, performance, and outcomes.
- Create a coordinated system of homelessness and ancillary services and supports, with a shared vision, goals, ownership, and accountability.

2.0 Homelessness Landscape Summary

The report, *Homelessness Landscape in Nipissing District* (Sept. 2021) was presented to the Board in September and highlighted the increase in local homelessness despite significant government investments and planning efforts by staff and other community organizations. The report also touched on the changing homelessness landscape, the existing plans and strategies in place to address homelessness, and current data collection methods. The Board's homelessness funding priorities over the past five years were also summarized and the importance of measuring progress and outcomes – through a lens such as social return on investment– was also emphasized.

The above report and additional analysis have enabled a reassessment of the situation and approach to addressing local homelessness and recommends necessary adjustments. These adjustments are in the form of the above priorities and action items to complete them, which are presented further on in the report.

3.0 Additional Context

The homelessness action plan follows a specific definition of homelessness and certain assumptions for setting the priorities and developing the action items. The plan is centred on the housing continuum model, which is useful for looking at housing as a system and making targeted interventions and investments in the housing area of need. The community work and progress to date is also important to look at and acknowledge when developing actions for the next 12 months out. This additional context is described in the following sub-sections:

3.1 Defining Homelessness

Effective planning in homelessness requires a clear definition of homelessness and what it means to "decrease and/ or end homelessness". As the extent and depth of homelessness vary depending on how it is defined, the planning and delivery of homelessness programs and services, and measuring progress and outcomes are inextricably linked to the definition. Without a clear definition, the homeless population is extremely difficult to enumerate, monitor, and measure performance results.

For the purpose of the action plan, the DNSSAB continues to use the national definition of homelessness - developed by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) – which has been widely adopted by communities across the country. The definition also aligns with that used by the province for homelessness enumeration (e.g., PiT Counts) and homelessness programs such as CHPI.

By the COH's definition, "Homelessness describes a range of housing and shelter circumstances, with people being without any shelter at one end, and being insecurely housed at the other. That is, homelessness encompasses a range of physical living situations, organized here in a typology that includes 1) *Unsheltered*, or absolutely homeless and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation; 2) *Emergency Sheltered*, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are homeless, as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence; 3) *Provisionally Accommodated*, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure, and finally, 4) *At Risk of Homelessness*, referring to people who are not homeless, but whose current economic and/ or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards.".[1]

Thus, under this definition, 'homelessness' encompasses all the above living conditions and by extension, the 'homeless' population is comprised of all those living in these conditions at any given time. It should be noted that the above living conditions are not necessarily mutually exclusive or experienced in isolation. Rather, those who are homeless, or at risk of being homeless, may experience any combination of these living conditions or all of them, over any given period. Also, as the COH notes, "for many people homelessness is not a static state but rather a fluid experience, where one's shelter circumstances and options may shift and change quite dramatically and with frequency".

To address the current problem of increasing homelessness under the above definition, the plan's action items are designed to serve those living in these housing conditions with a particular emphasis on the *unsheltered* and *emergency sheltered* population.

3.1.1 Ending Homelessness

Closely related to the above definition of homelessness is the concept of *ending homelessness*. It is important that staff, the Board, and the community are on the same page with respect to what the intended outcome and goal is in addressing local homelessness and working towards putting an end to it. Again, this starts with a common definition and understanding of what 'ending homelessness' means because without it, ending homelessness becomes an elusive target that is largely unmeasurable and unattainable.

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH), Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH), and the Calgary School of Public Policy have done some work around this concept and developed a national definition for ending homelessness. While there are many details behind the group's research and consultation

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[1] In turn, the typology has sub-definitions for the four states of homelessness. Generally, those living *unsheltered* (absolute homelessness) are living in public or private spaces without consent or contract, or places not intended for human habitation; those living *emergency sheltered* are staying in emergency overnight shelters designed for those who are homeless, impacted by family violence, or fleeing a natural disaster or destruction of accommodation due to fire, flood, etc; the *provisionally accommodated* are those who are technically homeless and without permanent shelter but are accessing some sort of accommodation that has no hope of permanence (e.g., living in institutional care or temporarily with others, 'couch surfing', etc.); those *at risk of homelessness* have housing (and are not technically homeless) but lack security and stability. Many are experiencing hardship such as poverty, personal crisis, discrimination, insecurity of tenure, etc. and could lose their housing relatively quickly due to an unexpected event, expense, crisis, or other trigger.

in this area, the important point to note is how the definition distinguishes between an *Absolute* and *Functional Zero* end to homelessness.

Absolute Zero adheres to the literal meaning and is a true end to homelessness. By this definition, everyone has access to acceptable housing with the required supports and services, and no one is homeless. Although this concept is the ultimate goal, it is viewed by most as unrealistic and unachievable given the likelihood that there will always be people experiencing homelessness, even if temporarily. Nonetheless, it presents the ideal vision to aspire to.
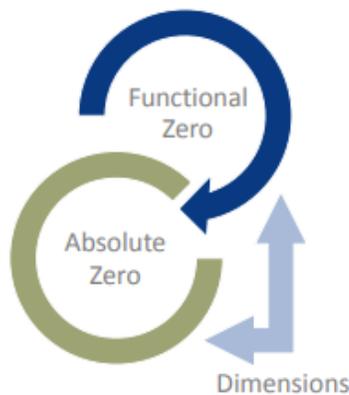
A **Functional Zero** end to homelessness means that communities have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness (unsheltered homeless, sheltered home, provisionally accommodated or imminent risk of homelessness) is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

Absolute Zero refers to a true end to homelessness, where everyone has access to supports and appropriate housing so that no one becomes homeless (unsheltered homeless, sheltered homeless, or provisionally accommodated) or at risk in the first place.

Dimensions: Lived Experience, Homelessness Prevention Systems, Public Systems

Rather, a more realistic approach is to achieve a Functional Zero end to homelessness, which is a relative concept. By this definition, an end to homelessness is reached when the community has sufficient services, housing, and shelter beds for anyone who needs them, and a systematic response is in place to prevent homelessness. This concept provides that homelessness is brief, rehousing efforts are successful, and individuals are unlikely to return to homelessness.

The above provides a useful measurement framework for moving the action plan forward to address the current homelessness problem. One of the challenges in addressing the homelessness problem in North Bay has been trying to measure the progress and results of the Board and community's planning efforts, program/service interventions, and investments. Adopting the Functional Zero definition above provides a common definition to work from and offers a starting point to develop tangible measures. Granted, within the definition, performance indicators and targets still need to be developed – or recommitted to - to fit the local circumstances and homelessness priorities.[2]

It can be noted that the Functional Zero end to homelessness also aligns with the Built for Zero movement which the DNSSAB and Community Advisory Board (CAB) are becoming involved, to address local homelessness (see, Built for Zero Canada).

3.2 Assumptions

The actions in the plan have been developed based on the following assumptions. It should be noted that although these assumptions are grounded in generally agreed-upon knowledge they have not necessarily been confirmed or verified to hold true at the local (district) level:

- Across the country, the homeless population and other disadvantaged groups have been particularly vulnerable during the pandemic due to elevated health risks and not being able to access some programs and services.

- The increased homeless population will continue to pose a significant challenge during the COVID recovery.

- The average cost of preventing someone from becoming homeless is much less than housing them in the emergency shelter system.

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[2] There are homelessness targets in place through various community housing and homelessness plans but some of these are currently not being measured or reported on.

- Closely related to the above, while emergency shelters play an important role in the community they should be used as a last resort and only when necessary.

- While homelessness prevention, shelter diversion, and rapid-rehousing are strategies that work together to end homelessness, they have different meanings and may require different tactics and interventions.

- Housing models such as Housing First and Built for Zero have been meeting with success and offer a good community approach to addressing homelessness (e.g. Medicine Hat).

3.3 The Housing Continuum

The *housing continuum* continues to be a useful model for looking at housing as a system and to see the big picture. The continuum shows the conceptual relationships and connections between the various types of housing options in a community and the possible movements and progression along the continuum. In the case of the homelessness action plan, the continuum also helps to locate the objectives and identify priority areas for action in terms of program and service delivery and investment.

The Homelessness Action Plan uses the following housing continuum model to frame the priorities and actions, specifically focusing on the first three areas of the continuum:

HOMELESSNESS	EMERGENCY SHELTER	TRANSITIONAL & SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	SUBSIDIZED & AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING	AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP	MARKET RENTAL	MARKET HOMEOWNERSHIP

HOUSING STABILIZATION
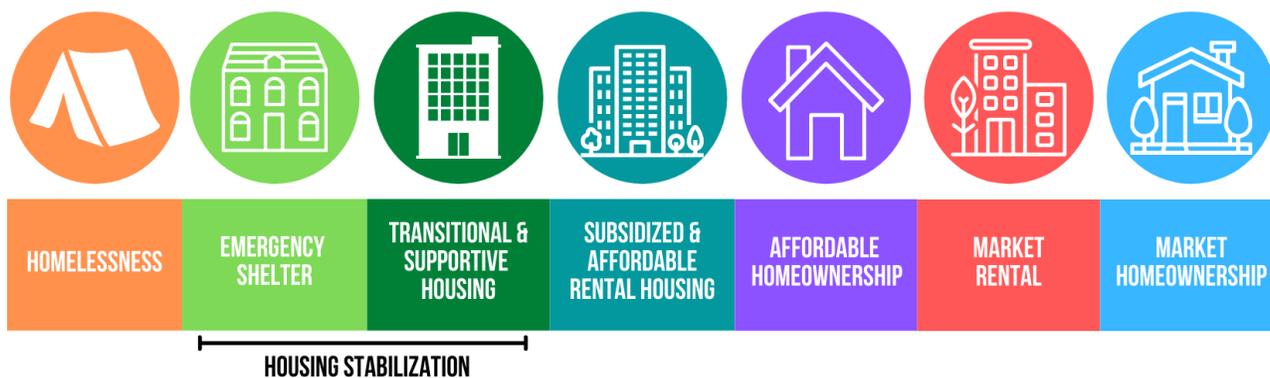
As a conceptual model, everyone can be located at some point along the continuum and thus, it represents all the housing options available within the community. Generally, the model describes housing transitions that start from homelessness and move through to emergency and women's shelters. From this temporary housing, progression is through transitional housing and into supportive housing, where the tenant is able to stabilize their housing situation and receive the necessary supports to remain housed. Social and affordable housing – and other forms of public and non-profit housing – is next along the continuum and is subsidized through various rent subsidies or supplements, and housing allowances. Some also progress into affordable homeownership with the help of a down payment or mortgage assistance. Up to this point on the housing continuum, the various housing options described are mainly supplied through the public and non-profit sectors although the private sector has also been involved with developing affordable housing.

From this point on in the continuum, housing progression is into the private rental market and then homeownership, which ideally concludes with the owner having a mortgage-free asset. At any given time a homeowner's housing needs may change once again and some will choose to move back along the continuum to the left (for example, into rental housing), while others may need to move into some type of supportive housing (such as a retirement home or long-term care).

It should be noted that as people move through their life cycle, circumstances change which can affect what type of housing they are in. These circumstantial changes may be positive or desirable ones, where movement along the continuum is generally to the right. Alternatively, the changes may be negative or undesirable ones, where movement along the continuum is typically to the left. Thus, movement along the continuum is not necessarily linear or progressive. Additionally, the housing continuum is meant to show the various housing states and options available in the community, and not necessarily the need to progress along the continuum.

3.4 Housing and Homelessness Progress and Work Underway

In developing priorities and actions to address the current homelessness problem, it is also important to look at the work that is underway and the progress to date in supporting and servicing the homeless population and improving the housing system in general. Although as noted in the landscape report, the increase in homelessness – driven by societal changes and pressures in other areas such as mental health and addictions – is inconsistent with the expected results, recognizing the community work and building from this provides a good step for moving forward.

The implementation of the Nipissing District 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan with the CAB and other community partners continues to make progress towards implementing action items and reaching outcomes across most of the housing continuum (above) for those in need. While too numerous to include here and the subject of another report, this includes planning and implementation work in the areas of increased emergency shelter capacity; community mobile housing supports; household stabilization initiatives; coordinated housing access; crisis management response; pilot projects (such as the Nurse Practitioner mobile outreach); and more recently, a homelessness anti-stigma campaign.

Many of the action items that follow complement the work being done above or will help to fast-track certain initiatives to address the increase in local homelessness.

4.0 Homelessness Action Plan

As mentioned previously, the Homelessness Action Plan is an action document that will be implemented over the next 12-months. The actions have been developed in response to priorities that stem from a reassessment of the current homelessness situation and they also correspond to strategies in other DNSSAB and community plans (see Appendix B).[3] In many respects, the homelessness research and planning work has already been done and there is now more emphasis put on the 'doing' part while keeping the current information and strategies updated and relevant based on changing circumstances.

In the action plan, the priorities and their respective actions are located on the housing continuum to indicate which part of the housing supply they address. As the primary focus is on the homeless population, most of the priorities and action items will affect the left-hand side of the continuum (i.e., from absolute street homelessness to transitional and supportive housing). Additionally, reference is made to other related planning strategies - from other community plans (see footnote below) – that the priorities and actions are related to. In some cases, the following priorities and action items are already underway but will now be fast-tracked or given greater priority for completion, based on their potentially large impact in reducing homelessness. In other cases, the priorities and action items are new but are seen as critical to achieving some of the other priorities or intended outcomes.

Overall, the Plan features 7 sections guided by their specific priority and a total of 42 actions. The plan implementation details for executing the actions will include timelines, resources, responsibility, and progress measurement for achieving the priorities. These details can be shared with community planning tables such as the Community Advisory Board (CAB) as necessary.

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[3] The plans reviewed and incorporated into the Action Plan include, *A Place to Call Home: 2014-2024 5-Year Review of Nipissing District's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan* (DNSSAB, 2019); *Community Safety and Well-Being Plans* (various Nipissing municipalities, 2021); *Homelessness Prevention Framework: Community Gaps and Potential Solutions* (NDHHP, 2021).

Unsheltered Homelessness

Priority

Establish a coordinated system of outreach supports through a lead agency, to quickly connect unsheltered homeless individuals with housing and health services and programs.
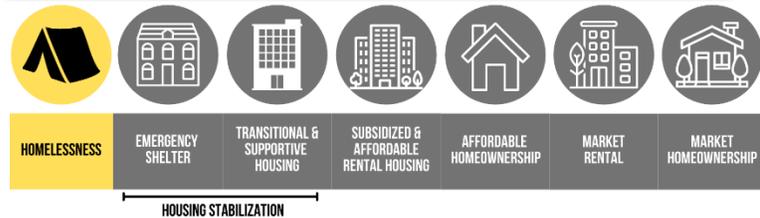
Many factors affect an individual sleeping rough versus accessing emergency shelters. Factors include safety concerns, shelter rules, and ultimately some prefer the freedom of unsheltered accommodations. For these individuals and others in need, it is important to ensure that outreach supports are readily available to offer a suite of options for housing and support services such as physical health, mental health, and addictions.

Actions

- Create an Encampment Coordinated Response Table with the representation of decision-makers from the City of North Bay, North Bay Police, DNSSAB, North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, and other health and social services providers with the aim to move unsheltered homeless individuals to housing.

- Ensure that there is sustainable funding for emergency response teams to assist with crisis situations including encampments, housing that has been condemned, and housing destroyed by a natural disaster or fire.

- Provide mobile health and crisis response services such as street nursing, which are also linked to coordinated access (i.e., location of available housing) and case management.

- Ensure that there is space available to rapidly shelter or re-house individuals who are transitionally homeless or have been affected by housing that has been condemned, accommodations that have been destroyed by natural disasters or fires, or COVID infections.

- Building upon the community work that has been done, complete and formalize the process for obtaining the names of homeless individuals and utilize a case management model to house and support individuals promptly.

- Establish the necessary data-sharing agreements between relevant service providers, to share client information and data in support of case management (above), research and analysis, and planning.

Emergency Shelter Services

Priority

Develop a shelter system that is cost-effective and easy to access, to provide housing stability and rapid re-housing as required.

Emergency shelters are often the first point of access into the housing continuum. Ensuring that shelters have adequate capacity, are easy to access, and are innovative in their approach to rehousing individuals and families is beneficial to the community. Currently, the emergency shelter system in the Nipissing District consists of a 19-bed shelter for men, women, and children, a 20-bed low-barrier shelter, a 7-bed faith-based shelter for men only, and four Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters. Shelter overflow services are also provided.
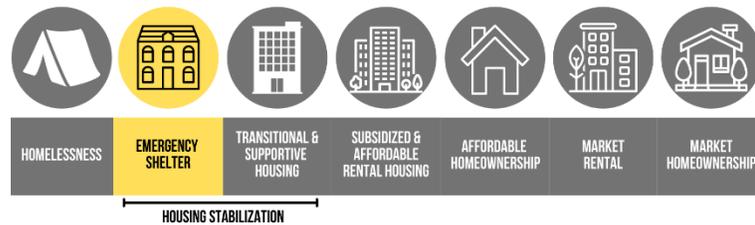
Actions

- Utilize provincial homelessness funding to continue to cover the operating costs of the Low-Barrier Shelter to March 31, 2022, with an emphasis on rapid rehousing for those experiencing episodic or transitional homelessness.[4]

- The DNSSAB to develop a funding strategy to cover the operating costs of the Low-Barrier Shelter from April 1 to December 31, 2022. (Note: After this point, the low barrier shelter should be changed to transitional housing and the funding source post April 1, 2022 to be confirmed. see also, Transitional & Supportive Housing).

- Reduce - with an aim to eliminate - the use of shelter overflow in hotels/motels through coordinated access, transitional housing, and/or rapid housing options (see also, Unsheltered Homelessness).

- Offer 24/7 shelter and day programming for the homeless population.

- Utilizing the by-name list, conduct a risk assessment of individuals utilizing the low-barrier shelter, or in known encampments, and utilize a case management model to house and support individuals promptly.

- Explore current development projects and opportunities to reserve housing units for homeless families.

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[4] Those experiencing episodic homelessness tend to move in-and-out of homelessness periodically and have stayed in an emergency shelter three or more times in the past year. Transitional homelessness refers to those who have experienced a significant or disastrous event in their life and become homeless, but are more likely to stay in a shelter for a brief period.

Transitional & Supportive Housing
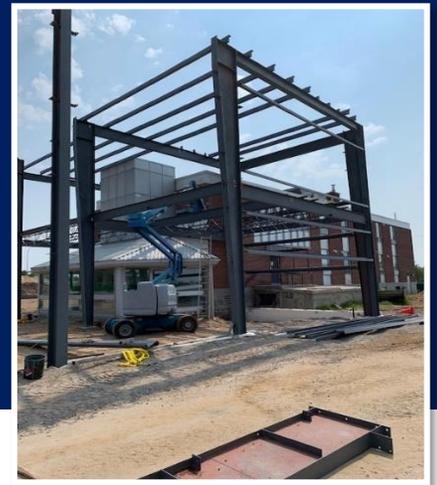
Priority

Create dynamic transitional and supportive housing that stabilizes individuals and promotes life skills development and independent living.

Independent and sustainable living can be a challenge for certain segments of the population. Transitional housing is an avenue to stabilize individuals by providing necessary support services including life skills development. By nature, transitional housing is temporary and intended to move individuals further along the housing continuum. Supportive housing, conversely, is a more permanent rental accommodation where tenants are provided with ongoing supports to facilitate daily living needs. In North Bay, there is currently optimism due to relatively large development projects that are underway. These include the 16-bed supportive housing project known as Gateway House (along with a second phase that will provide another 20 units) and Suswin Village, a new transitional home that will offer 30 private units. The Native People of Nipissing is also undertaking new transitional housing development of 12 units. Opportunities are also available to develop further transitional housing and programming that will further complement these new developments.
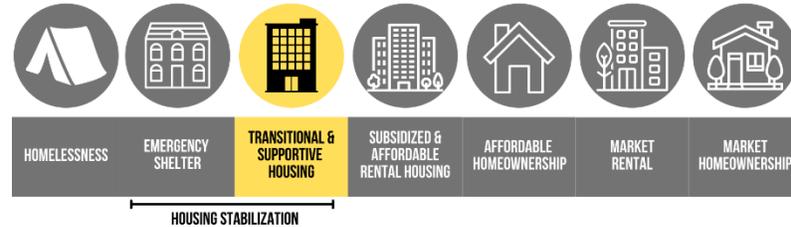
Actions

- Convert the Low-Barrier Shelter into stage-one transitional housing.

- Establish a permanent location for the stage-one transitional housing, which includes looking at the costs and benefits of staying at the existing location vs. moving to another.

- Create a coordinated service system with central accountability for the on-site delivery of a wide array of support services including mental health, addictions, counselling, education, life skills, employment, food security, and housing-based case management.

- Continue to advocate for sustainable funding to support the operations of all transitional housing programs.

- The DNSSAB to fund the transitional housing programs pending health or housing support from the provincial government.

Homelessness Prevention Services

Priority

Provide a suite of coordinated homelessness prevention programs and services that will provide long-term stabilization and security to households and individuals at-risk of homelessness.

Homelessness prevention efforts in the Nipissing District have primarily focused on emergency financial assistance programs to assist households at-risk of homelessness retain their housing. Pressures have been placed on homelessness prevention over the last 5 years due to the rising costs associated with emergency shelter solutions and specifically emergency shelter overflow services. This has led to fewer funds available for homelessness prevention correlated with increased demands for this funding. Additional funding under homelessness prevention could lead to greater availability and a wider array of emergency financial assistance trusteeships, and family/landlord mediation. Concerns are also noted in the effectiveness of long-funded programs and supports.
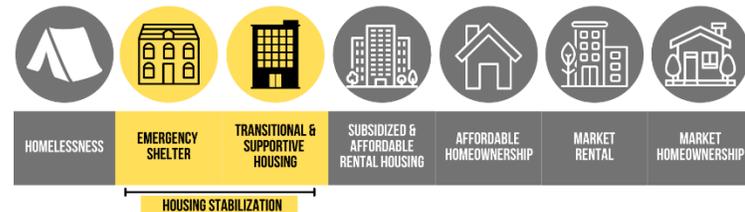
Actions

- Review the efficacy of the local Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI), the Board's main homelessness prevention program delivered through provincial funding.

- Depending on the results of the review above, consider providing additional funding for financial management programs such as trusteeships.

- Depending on the results of the review above, consider requiring households that have repeatedly accessed homelessness prevention programs to take part in financial management programs such as trusteeships.

- Increase data collection of homelessness prevention programs to include follow-ups with households that received assistance.

- Expand investments for rental subsidy programs that are not specifically tied to the Social Housing Waiting List. (Note: Doing this however, would not lead to a decrease in the Service Level Standard shortfall and would need to be explored further).

- Increase data sharing between organizations that offer homelessness prevention programs to better serve vulnerable populations.

- Start tracking the number of repeat clients and utilize a housing-based case management model to work with, and stabilize, individuals in their homes and prevent the loss of housing.

Other Housing Services

Priority

Increase adequate, suitable, and affordable housing options including rental and homeownership that meet the diverse needs of the community.
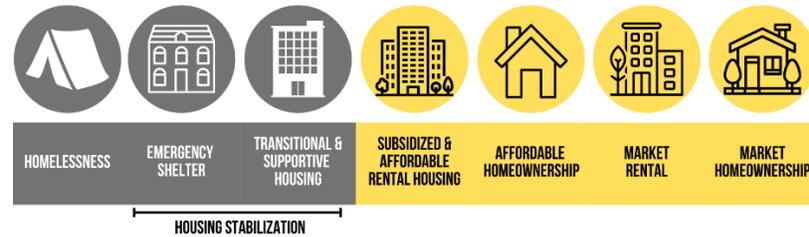
Homelessness services, supports, and programs are primarily linked to the first three components of the housing continuum. However, other components play a role in homelessness and it is important to ensure that these are also operating effectively and efficiently. Examples of the interrelation between other housing continuum components and homelessness include rental arrears, housing availability and waiting lists, housing affordability, and selective application processes imposed by landlords.

Actions

- Seek sustainable funding for homeowners who require critical home renovations/retrofits. This funding is important to assist households in retaining their home and meeting health and safety regulations.

- Seek sustainable funding for down-payment assistance programs. These programs are important to assist households who would like to move from rental accommodations to homeownership.

- Advocate for increased funding to support the development of affordable housing units.

- Leverage DNSSAB and NDHC funds to explore opportunities to expand rental subsidy programs, affordable housing, and revitalize public housing.

- Explore and realize opportunities to increase the number of subsidized housing units through unit acquisitions and new developments.

Information & Data Collection & Analysis

Priority

Conduct advanced data collection and analysis on the homeless population that supports evidence-based decision-making and enables the measurement of progress, performance, and outcomes.

Access to reliable information and data regarding homelessness and related programming is critical to support evidence-based decision-making and monitor the progress and achievement of outcomes. Data collection on the homeless and vulnerable populations has primarily been through program reporting, homeless counts, and the outdated HIFIS 3.8 system.

Actions

- Dedicate a DNSSAB staff lead for HIFIS and Coordinated Access.

- Implement a By-Name List of homeless individuals in the Nipissing District.

- Implement HIFIS 4.0.

- Require that all service providers that access CHPI and Reaching Home funding be on HIFIS 4.0.

- Ensure that the major service providers related to homelessness are involved in the Coordinated Access system and utilize HIFIS 4.0.

- Expand data sharing agreements between key service system players.

- Increase the reporting requirements for the CHPI Program to include specific planning outcome measures and qualitative descriptive information.

- Increase data collection of housing and homelessness programs to include follow-ups with households that received assistance.

System Coordination

Priority

Create a coordinated system of homelessness and ancillary services and supports with a shared vision, purpose, and ownership.

The coordination of the service system is critically important. System coordination is a client-centred approach that seeks to reduce barriers to service through centralization of services, partnerships, and data sharing to name a few. A coordinated service system also ensures that the major service system players are guided by a shared vision and have ownership of homelessness issues in North Bay and the broader Nipissing District.

Actions

- Become a Built for Zero Canada member community once the eligibility period opens.

- Centralize services for supportive and transitional housing tenants and shelter guests – a wide array of support services on-site.

- Ensure the By-Name List of homeless individuals is tied to a group of community service providers who will meet regularly and find coordinated solutions to rapidly rehouse and provide supports to individuals identified.

- Assess the value of funded housing and homelessness programs, supports, and services for their Social Return on Investment.

- Identify individuals who do not have a fixed address in DNSSAB databases and seek their consent to be added to the By Name List in order to connect them with appropriate supports and services.

4.0 Plan Implementation

The Homelessness Action Plan is a DNSSAB owned planning document. As the service system manager, DNSSAB plays a large role in housing and homelessness in the Nipissing District. The implementation of action items is, therefore, a top priority for the Board in its goal to realize the vision of *Healthy communities without poverty.*

The DNSSAB will seek to review its own operations in the realm of housing and homelessness but also other interrelated services such as Ontario Works, Children's Services, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Furthermore, DNSSAB will be responsible for collaborating with appropriate community service providers to implement identified actions.

Actions

- Ensure all funding decisions pertaining to housing and homelessness are linked to the Homelessness Action Plan.

- Seek opportunities to create or enhance partnerships in the community to move forward the Homelessness Action Plan.

- Where feasible, realign existing resources to complete/implement the action items listed in the Homelessness Action Plan.

- Apply to available funding resources to advance the action items listed in the Homelessness Action Plan.

- Complete quarterly Homelessness Action Plan progress reports to be presented to the Board and available to the public.

- As new information and data becomes available, review and update the Homelessness Action Plan.

5.0 Conclusion

The persistent rise in the homeless population has led to the current situation where homelessness is a more complex issue than ever before, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Homelessness Action Plan represents an opportunity to take immediate action that is realistic to curb the upward trends noted in homelessness and ultimately reach a functional zero end to homelessness. By taking a housing continuum approach, the Action Plan looks to create a spectrum of programs, supports, and services that will effectively move individuals along the continuum. The Action Plan is a DNSSAB initiative; however, it builds upon the work and action already being taken by community partners and relies on their continuing involvement, collaboration and system coordination. The Homelessness Landscape Report clearly indicated that in response to a changing landscape and societal factors the current approach to solving homelessness has not had the full impact and has not been successful in meeting all the planning outcomes. It is now time to be innovative and create a dynamic homelessness prevention and response system that creates social and economic value in the community.

References

Gaetz, S.; Barr, C.; Friesen, A.; Harris, B.; Hill, C.; Kovacs-Burns, K.; Pauly, B.; Pearce, B.; Turner, A.; Marsolais, A. (2012) Canadian Definition of Homelessness. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

Appendix

Appendix A – Homelessness Prevention Framework

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION FRAMEWORK:
Community Gaps and Potential Solutions

CAB members were invited to share priority community gaps and potential solutions. The information was collected to identify:

- priority areas for immediate funding through Reaching Home;
- existing interventions across the homelessness prevention continuum; and
- opportunities for future interventions.

50% of CAB member organizations responded (13).

Four key themes emerged from the community gaps and potential solutions identified.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PRIORITY AREAS
A Full Continuum of Affordable and Appropriate Housing e.g. housing stock, emergency housing, transitional housing, supportive permanent housing
Specialized Housing Supports e.g. mental health and addictions support, culturally-appropriate services, youth-oriented services, crisis intervention, and case management
Homelessness/Housing Outreach Services e.g. services that assess and respond to the unique needs of people who are unsheltered or in emergency shelter including connecting them with supports and/or assisting them in obtaining and retaining housing
Evictions Prevention, Housing Stability and Retention e.g. financial supports (trusteeship, housing allowances, utility and rent arrears programs), housing retention supports, wraparound services, food security, and basic needs initiatives

Appendix B – Associated Planning Strategies

The respective priorities and their action items in the plan, correspond to the following strategies in other DNSSAB and community housing and homlessness-related plans:

Unsheltered Homelessness:

- Community partners and agencies advocate for those who are at risk of becoming homeless and those who are homeless. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Expand and coordinate outreach programs. (CSWB Plan, City of North Bay)

- Create a nursing street outreach program. (CSWB Plan, City of North Bay)

- Homelessness/Housing Outreach Services. (Homelessness Prevention Framework, NDHHP)

- Community Crisis Intervention (e.g. fire, flood, encampment relocation). (Homelessness Prevention Framework, NDHHP)

Emergency Shelter Services:

- Improve the homelessness prevention and shelter diversion system that will assist citizens in finding appropriate and sustainable housing in the shortest amount of time. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Find a solution to meeting the chronic requirements of individuals who are homeless, in both urban and rural settings. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Emergency shelter and supports. (Homelessness Prevention Framework, NDHHP)

- Mental health supports – day programming. (Homelessness Prevention Framework, NDHHP)

Transitional & Supportive Housing:

- Increase the supply of transitional/second-stage housing. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Discover and implement a community approach to successfully house vulnerable individuals with a focus on cultural appropriateness and inclusivity. (CSWB Plan, City of North Bay)

- Increase the supply of transitional and supportive housing units to meet the demand. (CSWB Plan, City of North Bay)

- A full continuum of affordable and appropriate housing. (Homelessness Prevention Framework, NDHHP)

- Life skills development. (Homelessness Prevention Framework, NDHHP)

Homelessness Prevention:

- Develop a Housing Eviction Prevention Program. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Enhance service and program delivery throughout the service network. (CSWB Plan, City of North Bay)

- Evictions, Prevention, Housing Stability and Retention. (Homelessness Prevention Framework, NDHHP)

Other Housing Services:

- Ensure that citizens have adequate, affordable and suitable housing. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Improve senior citizens' ability to Age in Place. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Explore opportunities to expand rental subsidy programs. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Leverage resources in order to maximize affordable housing options along the continuum. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Increase the supply of affordable rental housing. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Renew and/or redevelop social housing assets. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Maintain Nipissing's service level standards in social housing. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Create opportunities to facilitate new housing projects. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Increase the supply of affordable housing units to meet the demand. (CSWB Plan, City of North Bay)

- Increased Inventory of Affordable and Rental Housing. (CSWB Plan, East Ferris)

- Build partnerships with developers to increase the availability of affordable and safe housing. (CSWB Plan, South Algonquin)

Information & Data Collection & Analysis:

- Develop a 'Coordinated Access' approach to addressing homelessness in Nipissing District. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Improve the public's access to information on housing and homelessness programs including housing options and support services. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Increase awareness concerning housing and homelessness issues in the District. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- DNSSAB becomes a repository of housing information, data, and knowledge. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Increase community education and awareness around safety and well-being in the community. (CSWB Plan, City of North Bay)

- Promote data sharing among agencies to enhance our knowledge of the local risk factors and vulnerable populations. (CSWB Plan, South Algonquin)

- Expand existing knowledge of vulnerable people experiencing housing insecurity. (CSWB Plan, South Algonquin)

System Coordination:

- Increase the collaboration between DNSSAB and/ or any of the following: community partners, municipalities, the federal government, the provincial governments. (10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, DNSSAB)

- Ensure the service system and planning tables/ committees are coordinated and operating efficiently and effectively. (CSWB Plan, City of North Bay)

- Communication and Shared Vision. (Homelessness Prevention Framework, NDHHP)

- Increase communication and collaboration among agencies providing housing support. (CSWB Plan, South Algonquin)