PROGRESS ON THE TARGETS OF THE 5-YEAR PLAN, 2020-2025

The ***5-Year Plan*** launched by End Homelessness Winnipeg in 2019 sets out 7 measurable targets for preventing and ending homelessness in Winnipeg by 2025. End Homelessness Winnipeg monitors and advance progress on these targets.

1. CREATE 1,340 additional housing units based on identified local housing needs

Context: 1,340 is the low estimate of units needed by 2025 in End Homelessness Winnipeg's 2018 ***Housing Models and Development Framework*****.** The 2020 ***City of Winnipeg Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment*** identifies the need for **4,125** new units by 2025.

Progress:

Type of Housing	Target	# Of Units Created, 2019-June 2023	# Of New Units in Development as of June 30, 2024	# Of Additional New Units Needed by 2025
Transitional Housing	225	343	88	-206
Rooming House	Maintain	1363	-107	N/A
Single-Room Occupancy (SRO)	Maintain	763	Data to be captured Fall 2024	N/A
Permanent Supportive Housing	200	222	0	-22
Social (RGI)	470	72	68	330
Private Below-Market Rent	450	369	108	-27
Total	**1345**	**3132**	**157**	**75**

In the Housing Models and Development Framework report (here), we emphasize the importance of maintaining rooming houses and single-room occupancy (SRO) units. Focus should be placed on improving the conditions of these units where necessary. Current data indicate a decline in the number of rooming houses in Winnipeg, along with a deterioration in the quality of living conditions within both Rooming Houses and SROs.

Building new rooming houses in Winnipeg is particularly challenging due to current Zoning By-law restrictions. Rooming houses that are well maintained and managed are an important form of interim housing for those with very limited income options or those who suddenly find themselves without housing. The rooming house as a housing option is a vital component that should not be ignored. Rather, we encourage the City to consider

solutions to improving on our existing stock of rooming houses in the city where necessary and allow new rooming houses to be built in certain zones.

Recent trends in housing data indicates a need to invest capital and operating funding towards the retention and increase of sustainable housing options that provide wrap-around supports. It has been notably difficult to encourage the development of permanent supportive housing options. The most recent development of a 200+ seniors-focused housing project is commendable, however recent point in time counts indicate that many individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness require supportive housing. We recommend that future funding sources towards new development be specifically targeted to permanent supportive housing projects. We eagerly await the results of the City's current capital grants by way of the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Progress and Action Plan:

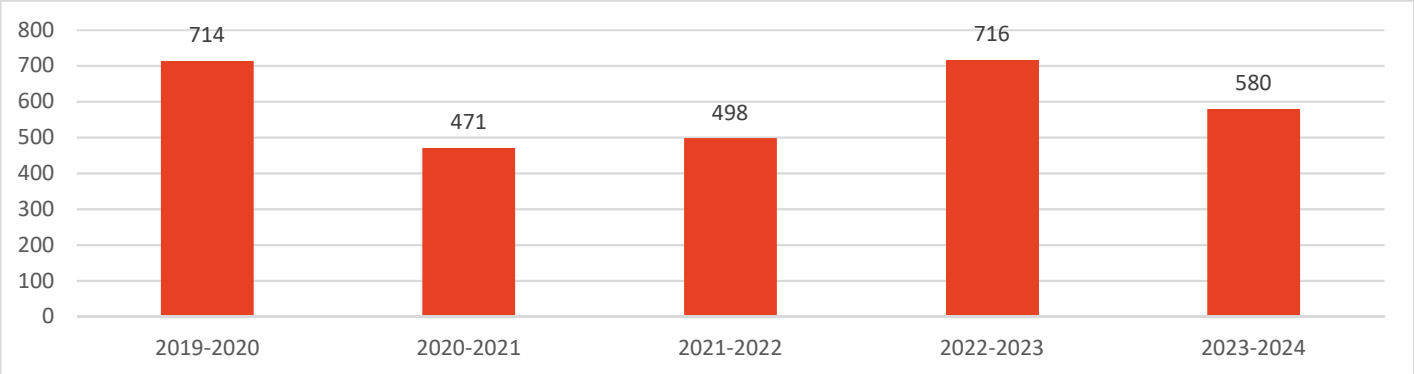
2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
CREATE **1,340** additional housing units based on identified local housing needs	Build fund development capacity by establishing a financing model called the Cost-Avoidance Financial Model for new housing	Government and philanthropic funders, developers and investors have been engaged on the model. Federal and City officials are receptive of the model. Provincial officials saw CAFM more project-based model and currently evaluating integration.	Project development is occurring that will updating the document with 2024 figures.
	Develop a master plan to create 1,340 units	Assessing opportunities, needs and best practices	Updated Framework to include Master Plan and costing
	Leverage partnerships with developers/ funders/service providers to build housing units	Partners engaged through Housing Supply Action Committee and ***Astum Api Niikinaahk***	Leverage partnerships to implement Master Plan; work with non-profits on current housing project goals; develop relationships with private sector to increase development capacity
	Engage governments to meet homeless needs through funding and policies for new housing.	***Kíkinanaw Óma Strategy*** sets recommendations for government to address housing needs; monitors progress yearly	Continue to engage governments on new low-income housing needs and to track new supply.

CREATE **1,340** additional housing units based on identified local housing needs	Collaborate on Strategy implementation with City of Winnipeg	CoW has new Homelessness Advisor to the Mayor CoW has established housing accelerator fund department under the Office of the CAO	Collaborate on new strategies with the CoW
	Leverage partnerships with major providers of rent-geared-to-income housing	Partnering with Manitoba Housing and MNPHA	Leverage partnerships for new Master Plan

2. HOUSE 1,519 people experiencing absolute homelessness or provisionally housed

Context: 1,519 was the number of people encountered experiencing homelessness encountered by the ***2018 Winnipeg Street Census*** . At least as many **1,256** people were encountered during the ***2022 Winnipeg Street Census***.

Progress: The Reaching Home program has been moved to Infrastructure Canada and they now publish a summary of the annual results broken down by fiscal year.



The total since 2019 is 2979.

Progress and Action Plan:

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
HOUSE **1,519** people experiencing absolute homelessness or provisionally housed	***Coordinated Access (CA)*** system has developed a centralized inventory of housing resources	Continued monitoring, evaluation and updating	Continued monitoring and updating CA inventory as needed to keep current.
	CA has developed a system that streamlines the process for people experiencing homelessness to access housing and supports	Continued monitoring, evaluation and updating.	Continued support through Community of Practice, HIFIS for measuring outcomes
	Collaborate with federal and provincial partners to identify and address jurisdictional gaps impacting Indigenous homelessness	Engaging Justice, CFS, CLDS and Health to address homelessness among Indigenous people exiting systems	Pilot project: School-Based, Early Family Prevention Strategies (Project – with each unique school division)

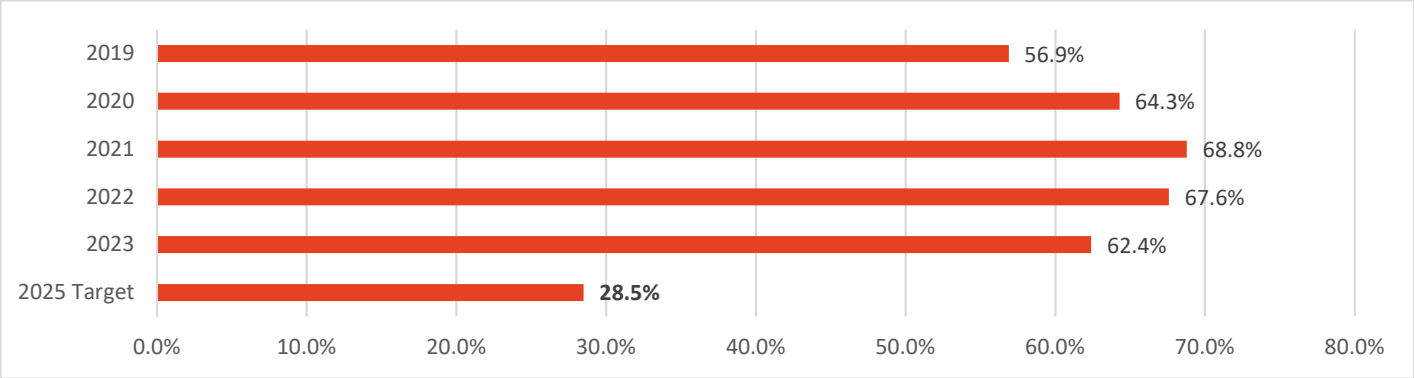
3. REDUCE Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by 50%

Context: Indigenous people are over-represented in Winnipeg's emergency shelter system, comprising more than half of emergency shelter users but only 12% of the city's overall population.

Progress: In the baseline year (January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019), 56.9% of shelter community members identified as being of Indigenous descent. By the end of 2025, the goal is to reduce this representation to no higher than 28.5%, which is half of the baseline figure. Based on Indigenous representation in Year One, this translates to a 35.8% reduction in overrepresentation, achievable through improved access to housing for self-identified Indigenous community members.

However, since setting this target, the trend has unfortunately moved in the opposite direction, with the percentage of Indigenous community members exceeding the baseline year. This trend highlights the severe overrepresentation of Indigenous community members experiencing homelessness compared to the general population. It's important to note that the Indigenous Emergency Shelter (N'Dinawemak) is not included in these calculations, which would likely increase the overrepresentation figures even further.

*Note: The missing stay data (due to the Admissions module in HIFIS being inoperable for one of the shelters) affects the results for the final quarter of 2021 and the first two quarters of 2022.



*Unique client records where Indigenous Status was recorded as "Unknown" were excluded from the Total Unique Client counts for the purposes of this calculation

*Shelters include Main Street Project, Siloam Mission and Salvation Army emergency shelters, Salvation Army family shelter and transitional housing.

Progress and Action Plan:

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
REDUCE Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by **50%**	Partner with Indigenous organizations to build housing and increase access to housing	Partnered with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Wahbung Abinoonjiiag, Shawenim Abinoojii, AMC, AHWC, and other Indigenous organizations on housing development and housing supports	Sustain and build partnerships to develop transitional housing for women, Two-Spirit and nonbinary adults and families fleeing violence and future initiatives

	Partner with Indigenous organizations to build culturally appropriate approaches, systems, and supports for people exiting homelessness	Senior Director, Housing Supports is part of a national network developing and piloting an Indigenous pathway for intake to CA systems	The Indigenous PATH process was completed in the fiscal year 2022-23. Plans are to pilot the work in 2024-25, Winnipeg will be applying to be a pilot site.
REDUCE Indigenous overrepresentation in emergency shelters by **50%**	Collaborate with the four levels of government, municipal, provincial, federal and Indigenous governments, to identify jurisdictional gaps impacting Indigenous homelessness, and develop upstream prevention strategies	Ongoing engagement with community partners, and the 4-levels of government have led to numerous discussions regarding the intersection(s) of root causes of Indigenous homelessness.	Prevention projects, including pilot programs launched at Women's Correctional Centre (WCC), with Winnipeg School Division, and a community-based project focusing on transitions out of CFS care, understanding to and responding to, the needs of Indigenous community members.

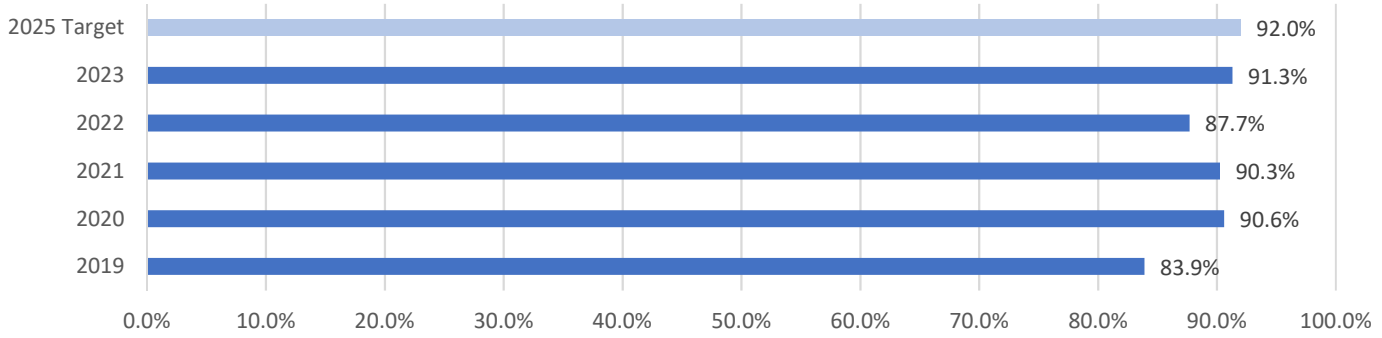
4. SHORTEN lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that 92% are less than 10 days

Context: Shorter Shelter Stays are associated with successful transitions into housing and briefer experiences of homelessness.

Progress: The percentage of emergency shelter stays that were less than 10 days has improved/increased from the baseline year. This statistic is intended to help demonstrate the degree to which shorter stays in shelter are associated with successful transitions into housing (transitional or permanent) or connections to resources and other community support services, and also reflects back and forth movement between shelters and encampments or home communities.

* Note: Missing stay data (from when Admissions module in HIFIS was inoperable for one of the shelters) affects the results for the final quarter of 2021 as well as the first two quarters of 2022.

*Stays at one or more Shelters represents the number of stays with a given length, not the number of individuals with stays of that length. Shelters include Main Street Project, Siloam Mission and Salvation Army emergency shelters as well as Salvation Army family shelter and transitional housing.



Progress and Action Plan:

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
SHORTEN lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that 92% are less than 10 days	Support a continuum of housing types and services: supportive, cultural, transitional, community etc.	Engaging Housing Supply Action Committee to explore diverse models and supports	Diversify Reaching Home investments in housing services and capital projects
	Efforts to attend WCC onsite, consistently, have resulted in people being attached to services, prior to release from provincial corrections.	Ongoing communication between EHW and WCC to understand the needs of people being released from provincial corrections, have resulted in improved diversion processes, from emergency shelter.	Continued efforts to improve processes aimed at preventing people from being released from provincial corrections to emergency shelter, will continue as partnership strengthen between Native Clan Organization, John Howard Society, Elizabeth Fry and both WCC and Headingley Correctional Centre.
	Work with emergency shelters to become more housing focussed	Supporting engagement with the ***Shelter Transformation Network***	Increase housing supply and housing services at shelters
	Transfer provincial homeless programs and subsidies serving Winnipeg to End Homelessness Winnipeg	Implementing Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit (CMHB) homelessness stream and Building Services	2022-23 over 800 tenants were supported by the CMHB. 2023-24 it's now over **2100**

SHORTEN lengths of stays in emergency shelters so that 92% are less than 10 days	Educate the public on issues related to homelessness: reduce stigma, mobilize support for inclusion/integration	Monthly newsletter reached over 2000 subscribers; staff were featured in more than 40 news media stories and a reach of over 5000 per post.	Continue implementing Communications Strategy and raising public awareness
	Finalize long-term plan to prevent discharge from provincial corrections into homelessness	Since 2020 demonstration project at Headingly Women's, EIA intake is being streamlined.	Shift to focus on preventing exits from CLDS services to homelessness.

5. ELIMINATE entries to homelessness among released inmates and youth who are in CFS care or disengaging from school

Context: The impact of homelessness is significantly shaped by the inflow of individuals from various institutions and systems, including the justice system and Child and Family Services (CFS). The 2022 Winnipeg Street Census provided compelling evidence linking homelessness to connections with CFS and limited educational attainment. The survey revealed that over half of the respondents had a history of involvement with CFS, and a majority experienced homelessness for the first time at age 18 when they aged out of the care system. Moreover, more than half of the respondents had not completed their high school education.

Ideally, data regarding this target population should be obtained from the relevant government institutions. However, we have yet to receive the requested data from these sources.

Progress: From the baseline year (Jan 1/2019 to Dec 31/2019) to 2023, there has been a steady reduction in the number of community members released from a Correctional facility, Child and Family Services or a Medical/Psychiatric treatment facility. This information is very dependent upon community members disclosing their reason(s) for staying at a shelter and on staff recording this as the primary reason for service, and as such, the unique client count reported remains an underestimate.

* Note that Quarterly statistics represent a fraction of yearly unique clients so caution must be taken when interpreting quarterly results against annual; therefore, the best comparison when looking at the quarterly data is simply between other quarterly information.

* Note: Missing stay data (from when Admissions module in HIFIS was inoperable for one of the shelters) affects the results for the final quarter of 2021 as well as the first two quarters of 2022.

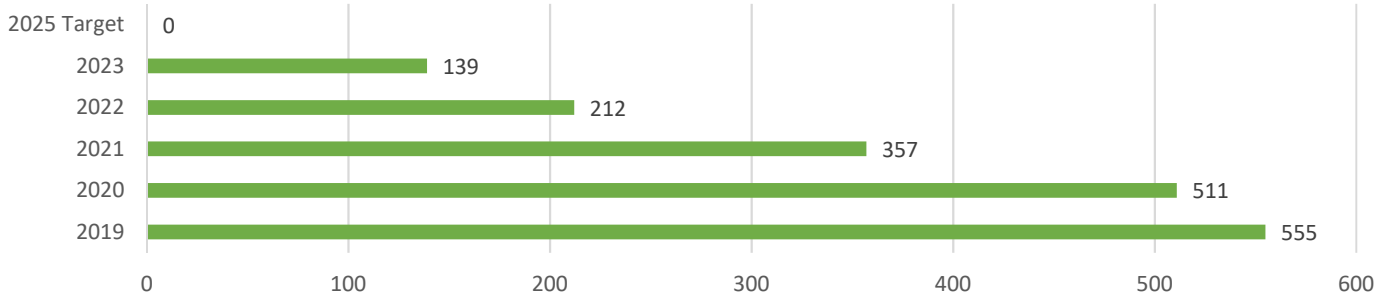


*Chart displays Total Stays at Emergency Shelters where "Reason for Service" was Release/Discharge from Corrections, Agency Placement (CFS), or Treatment (Medical, Psychiatric, Other). A Stay is defined as a minimum 4 hour overnight stay between 7pm-7am.
*Limitations: People do not always disclose reason(s) for staying at a shelter; only one selection was allowed although there may be multiple reasons for service; information was not always captured when clients booked in; staff usage of this field is increasing, which could appear as an increase in the number of people discharged from institutions/systems; People whose Reason for Service was "Unknown/Did Not Ask" were not included.
*Shelters include Main Street Project, Siloam Mission and Salvation Army emergency shelters, Salvation Army family shelter and transitional housing.

Progress and Action Plan:

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
ELIMINATE Entries to homelessness among released inmates and youth who are in CFS care or disengaging from school	Working 'upstream' to support families, partner with the Winnipeg School Division to increase supports to families in the catchment.	During the 2023/2024 school year, three income and housing service providers event were held. R.B. Russell, Elmwood Highschool, and Daniel McIntyre hosted events targeted to attach families in the catchment, to housing and income supports including offering free tax clinics.	Planning between WSD1 Community Support Coordinator and admin are underway, to account for 3-4 events next school year (2024-2025).
	To date, 4 housing workshops have been administered at WCC. Demographic information collected from 32 participants indicates that: • 28% are between the ages of 19-29; and 69% are between the ages of 30-45,	Improved connection to resources, access to EIA, and housing supports occurred this past year, for women leaving provincial corrections. In response to observations and conversations with provincial corrections staff and lived experts, a diversion	EHW will continue to offer this two-day housing workshop at WCC and will build partnership with the Headingley Correctional Centre. EHW will continue to work with the Native Clan Organization Inc.,

	• 31% are living with a disability, • 84% disclosed identifying as Indigenous, • 78% experienced homelessness, prior to incarceration, • 78% do not know where they will live upon leaving provincial corrections.	pilot was co-developed with the Native Clan Organization, Inc., intended to meet the needs of lower acuity participants.	Naatamooskakowin, and community partners to bridge supports for those leaving provincial corrections.
ELIMINATE Entries to homelessness among released inmates and youth who are in CFS care or disengaging from school	Led by EHW, a Child and Family Services project team/advisory team has been comprised to undertake a responsive evaluation on post age-of-majority supports available for those leaving the CFS system.	To date, the preliminary engagement process is complete, having met with over 20 Indigenous/youth-serving organizations to obtain feedback on the project plan. A lived-expert research consultant was contracted to lead the development of the data collection tools, draft a literature review, and conduct a jurisdictional scan on services/supports currently available for those exiting the CFS system. The project team/advisory team having equitable representation, inclusive of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Southern Chiefs Organization, the Manitoba Metis Federation and the Manitoba Inuit Association, launched in February 2024.	The data collection tools are being piloted in June 2024 with phase 1 of the data collection process commending with lived experts, in July 2024.

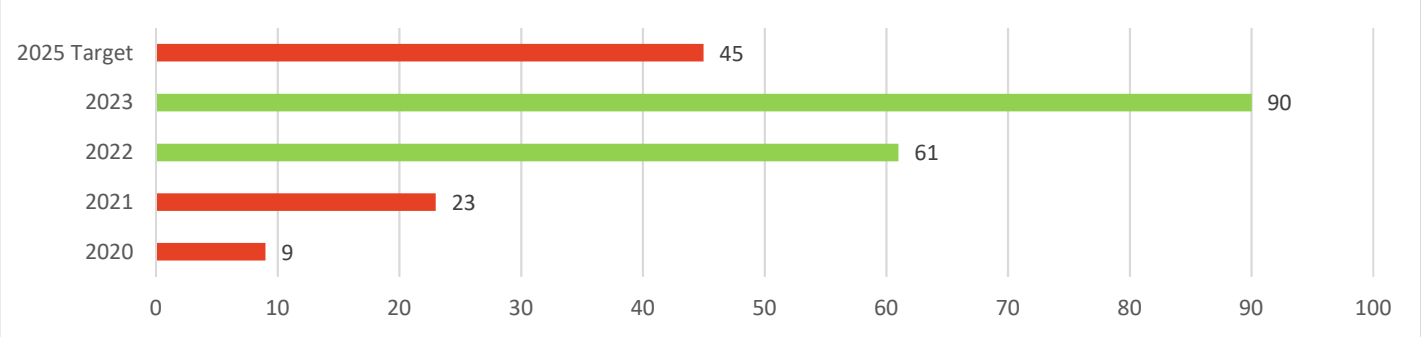
6. EXPAND use of HIFIS to 45 homeless-serving organizations and programs as part of a coordinated access system

Context: A robust shared information system is key to progress on ending homelessness.

Progress: Total Number of programs and organizations onboarded to HIFIS exceeded the 5-Year Target in the first quarter of 2021, facilitated by the implementation of Coordinated Access and new partnerships with family violence and outreach services.

By the end of the 1st Quarter in 2024 this number increased to 27 organizations in HIFIS4. When including distinct programs within these organizations, the resulting total is 90 HSS Organizations and Programs.

*Note that reductions in the # of Service Providers/Programs can occur as a result of one or more Programs no longer in effect at a given Organization(s)



Progress and Action Plan:

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
EXPAND Use of HIFIS to **45** homeless-serving organizations and programs as part of a coordinated access system	Integrate shelter, Housing First programs and other community service providers serving people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless into the HIFIS Shared System	On boarded other organizations funded outside of Reaching Home; currently has 90 programs on-board HIFIS. Instituted the HIFIS infrastructure changes which heightened the log-in security process using the 2FA and improved server performance. Made multiple improvements on the HIFIS training (i.e. organized into role-based sessions; training is offered regularly in classroom setting or on-	Focus more on strengthening the importance of data completeness, accuracy, and timeliness; currently in development (on-line HIFIS training); continue working on the next phase re HIFIS Provincial Project. Consultant is currently in the final phase of completing the planning documents for the HIFIS Provincial System.

		site at partner organizations tailored to their specific needs and usage; just-in-time training approach, and more hands-on training than ever before).	
EXPAND Use of HIFIS to **45** homeless-serving organizations and programs as part of a coordinated access system	Implement CA using standardized intake, assessment tools	CA system has been implemented using the VI-SPDAT standardized intake and assessment tool	Winnipeg's CA to launch PATH process to partners
	Implemented by-name list in HIFIS in 2022.	CA Council consulted with stakeholders on list criteria and protocols	Continual updating and revising the by-name-list

7. PREVENT 90% of those served by Coordinated Access from re-entering homelessness

Context: Successful transitions to housing will help measure the success of Coordinated Access.

Progress: ***Naatamooskakowin, Winnipeg's Coordinated Access system***, launched March 31, 2022. Brandon and Thompson have been trained on the use of HIFIS.

Progress and Action Plan:

2025 TARGET	ACTIONS	PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
PREVENT **90%** of those served by coordinated access from re-entering homelessness	Evaluate practices, policies contributing to people returning to homelessness from supports provided in the community and government systems.	Working with Justice, CFS, Education and Health to identify policies and practices. Reviewing the data in HIFIS to identify causes and/or trends that lead to people needing to be rehoused.	Ongoing work to understand the processes/policies in place to govern service delivery and access to supports, continues to occur.
PREVENT **90%** of those served by coordinated access	Community Coordinated Response Process and eviction prevention	The intent of this process development is to better understand tenant rights and the processes involved when buildings are at risk of closure, and to mobilize and	This work is being transitioned to the Manager, Person-Centered Support who will continue to work collaboratively with the city, province, and

from re-entering homelessness		coordinate resources when tenants in low-barrier housing are at risk of being displaced. There has been a significant increase in fires, that have resulted in the sudden displacement of approximately 250 people, many of whom had experienced homelessness within the last 6-months and/or have been displaced more than once due to sudden building closures.	community partners to address the current, systemic and structural concerns that impact the sudden displacement of people.
	The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Research Café occurred in November 2023, to explore the current state of services/supports available to those living with ABI, in the Winnipeg-based area.	The research café resulted in a fruitful day of discussions and takeaways, that have resulted in the development of findings and recommendations designed to improve access to, and availability of cross-departmental supports.	The final report and recommendations are anticipated to be released in July 2024.
	Work with the Department of Justice, specifically provincial corrections, has continued to evolve this year.	The pilot workshop has increased onsite supports to participants, prior to release.	Continued planning to explore how this initiative might be scaled, is underway.

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

Driving Progress: The Vision of the Senior Director of Strategy and Impact

As we approach the culmination of our 5-year and 10-year strategic plans, we've taken a significant step to ensure our continued effectiveness and sustainability by hiring a Senior Director of Strategy and Impact. This new addition to our leadership team brings a wealth of experience and expertise, particularly in the Collective Impact Model, which is critical for driving collaborative efforts and achieving systemic change, emphasizes the structured collaboration and shared goals among diverse stakeholders, and this role is pivotal in ensuring that EHW remains the backbone organization that supports the community's efforts to end homelessness.

Exploring the Original Plan

EHW will revisit and critically evaluate the original strategic plan. This involves:

- **Reviewing Objectives and Outcomes**: Assessing the goals set in the original plan and measuring the outcomes achieved over the past five and ten years.
- **Identifying Successes and Shortcomings**: Highlighting areas where EHW has succeeded and identifying gaps or shortcomings in our approach.

Lessons Learned

Over the years, we have gained invaluable insights into the complexities of homelessness and the effectiveness of various interventions. As part of the strategic planning, we will be distilling these lessons learned, which include:

- **Effective Collaborations**: Understanding which collaborative efforts have yielded the most significant impact and why.
- **Barriers and Challenges**: Identifying persistent barriers faced by the homeless population and the challenges encountered by service providers.

Planning for the Future

Based on the evaluation of the original plan and the lessons learned, we are going to engage in forward-thinking discussions to shape EHW's future strategy. Key aspects of this process include:

- **Community Engagement**: Gathering input from the community to ensure that our future plans align with their needs and aspirations. This includes direct feedback from individuals experiencing homelessness and frontline workers.
- **Innovative Solutions**: Exploring new and innovative approaches to address homelessness, leveraging technology, and best practices from other regions.
- **Sustaining Collaborative Efforts**: Ensuring that EHW continues to facilitate and strengthen collaborative efforts among various stakeholders to create a unified and effective response to homelessness.
- **Organizing a Community Sector Table:** Reminiscent of the original table convened in 2014 where EHW's foundational plans emerged, this table brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including service providers, government representatives, community leaders, and individuals with lived experiences of homelessness

Continuing as the Backbone Organization

The overarching goal of these efforts is to reaffirm and strengthen EHW's role as the backbone organization that supports the community's collective effort to end homelessness. This involves:

- **Leadership and Advocacy**: Providing strong leadership and advocating for policies and resources that address the root causes of homelessness.
- **Resource Mobilization**: Securing funding and resources to support our initiatives and those of our partners.
- **Capacity Building**: Enhancing the capacity of our partner organizations through training, support, and shared resources.

By hiring a Senior Director of Strategy and Impact and organizing the Community Sector Table, End Homelessness Winnipeg has taken proactive steps to evaluate our past efforts and plan for a future where homelessness can be effectively addressed. Through collaborative, community-driven strategies, we aim to continue being the backbone organization that supports and leads the fight against homelessness in Winnipeg.

Pillars, Projects and Progress

Person-Centred Supports: Empowering Change

We've also hired a Person-Centred Support Manager. This role focuses on several key initiatives including outreach mapping, chairing the Extreme Weather Response Committee, the Unsheltered Encampment Strategy, and the Gizhe Waa Ti-Sii-Win Service Delivery Expo committee. This report outlines the progress and challenges encountered in these areas.

Outreach Mapping

EHW, in collaboration with various outreach teams across Winnipeg, has embarked on a comprehensive outreach mapping project. Funded by Reaching Home, this initiative aims to identify and address service gaps impacting homelessness. Key collaborators include MSP, DCSP, West Central Women's Resource Centre, St. Boniface Street Links, RaY Resources, and various Foot Patrol Outreach teams. The project's focus is on enhancing coordination between EHW and organizations representing those with lived and living experiences of homelessness. There is a need for a unified strategy to strengthen outreach teams and reduce service duplication, thereby improving pathways to ending homelessness. Establishing a central hub for outreach teams would enhance collaboration and service delivery. Stronger links to transitional housing and rapid rehousing are essential to reduce encampments and street homelessness.

Gizhe Waa Ti-Sii-Win Service Delivery Expo

The Gizhe Waa Ti-Sii-Win Service Delivery Expo has proven to be a critical event for the community, offering essential services in one location. The latest Expo, held in Spring 2023, successfully connected over 1,000 community members with more than 30 service providers.

Community members benefited from services such as addiction support, foot and eye care, and housing assistance. The Expo fostered collaboration among service providers, creating sustained support pathways for those experiencing homelessness. EHW has secured a larger venue at 190 Disraeli to accommodate more service providers and community members, aiming for greater impact.

Extreme Weather Response Program

The Extreme Weather Response Program addresses the urgent needs of individuals experiencing homelessness during extreme weather events. Key collaborators include North End Women's Centre, Sabe Peace Walkers, DCSP, N'Dinawemak, RaY, NEWC, WCWRC, 1JustCity, and MSP.

During extreme weather, extended hours and resources are provided, addressing housing needs and necessities. Effective coordination with agencies such as WFPS, EIA, WRHA, and CoW during emergencies like fires and floods. Reaching Home has increased funding to address complex needs during emergencies. EHW is working on a mandate to improve coordinated responses and funding access.

The efforts of the Person-Centred Supports Manager and the collaborative initiatives undertaken by EHW have significantly contributed to addressing homelessness in Winnipeg. While progress has been made, there are still gaps that need to be addressed to enhance service delivery and support for those experiencing homelessness. Moving forward, EHW remains committed to creating sustainable pathways out of homelessness through strategic collaboration and innovative solutions.

Prevention: Comprehensive Strategies for At-Risk Populations

Child and Family Services

Right to Home: A Responsive Evaluation on Post Age-of-Majority Supports for Youth and Young Adults Exiting Child and Family Services

EHW recognized the critical need to prevent youth and young adults exiting Child and Family Services (CFS) from experiencing episodic or chronic homelessness. To address this, we launched the Right to Home project in March 2024, with the aim of collecting and analyzing data to inform effective supports for this vulnerable population.

The Right to Home project is slated for completion by April 2025. We submitted a data request to Manitoba Families in November 2023, which was expected to take between six months to a year (April-October 2024) for processing. As of March 2024, we finalized the tools for conducting interviews with lived experts, drawing on their firsthand experiences to shape our understanding and recommendations. The Advisory and Project teams had their inaugural meeting in late February 2024, setting a collaborative foundation for the work ahead. The data collection phase that will involve interviews with lived experts will commence July 2024.

Provincial Corrections

Housing and Resource Information Workshop with Women's Corrections Center (WCC):

To prevent individuals exiting provincial corrections from falling into episodic or chronic homelessness, EHW initiated a pilot workshop at the Women's Corrections Center (WCC). This workshop, launched in November 2023, provided critical housing and resource information to participants. To date, the WCC workshop graduated 32 participants, with at least 10 individuals successfully connected to Naatamooskakowin-Coordinated Access. Despite an initial lack of response to our data request submitted to Manitoba Justice in December, we re-submitted this request in March 2024. A fifth workshop is scheduled for July, 2024, and a diversion pilot proposal, developed in collaboration with the Native Clan Organization (NCO), launched in June 2024, aimed to rapidly re-house those exiting WCC.

Education

Home IS Partnership Pilot Project with the Winnipeg School Division One:

EHW actively worked to promote school connection and enhance family stability within the Winnipeg School Division One (WSD1) through the Home IS partnership pilot project. Our efforts aimed to address the housing and income support needs of families within the school catchment area. An initial event was held at R.B. Russell School to connect families to essential supports. Preliminary discussions with St. James School Division were underway, focusing on addressing service gaps and housing solutions for families with complex needs. The first Home IS event took place on December 6, and a second and third event was occurring in March and May, resulting in over 150 families becoming attached to income and/or housing supports. Additionally, three more CMHB presentations occurred in March and April 2024.

Housing as a Health Issue

HIV-STBBI Ongoing Work with Nine Circles

EHW was committed to preventing homelessness among individuals leaving hospitals or those newly diagnosed with medical conditions such as HIV or STBBIs. Our ongoing partnership with Nine Circles aimed to streamline the process of connecting these individuals to necessary income and housing supports. In November 2023, EHW and Nine Circles submitted a joint letter to the Department of Housing, proposing a collaborative approach to support newly diagnosed patients. We developed a project plan to foster collective impact among hospital staff and homelessness sector workers, focusing on improving discharge processes.

Acquired Brain Injury with the University of Manitoba, March of Dimes, Brandon University and the St. Amant Centre

The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Research Café was held in November 2023 and involved meeting with 35 people with lived or work-related ABI experience. The working group is nearing finalization of the report and recommendations. The past few months have involved the drafting of the report, the infographics and the recommendations and it is anticipated that this report will be released in June/July 2024.

Financial Advocacy

Manitoba Financial Empowerment Policy Committee

EHW remained dedicated to advocating for adequate housing, income, and food security. Our ongoing financial advocacy efforts included collaboration with the Manitoba Financial Empowerment Policy Committee. In January 2024, we submitted a joint letter addressing criminal interest rate regulation, underscoring our commitment to financial justice for vulnerable populations.

Housing Supply: Strategic Pathways to Affordable Housing

Winnipeg Affordable Housing Strategy

We conducted a comprehensive Housing Supply Scan as part of the broader Winnipeg Affordable Housing Strategy. This initiative aimed to address the pressing housing needs within the community, particularly focusing on those living in poverty. By integrating data and insights from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

housing market research, we sought to develop a robust understanding of the housing landscape and identify strategic opportunities for intervention.

Housing Needs Assessment with a Poverty Focus

The Housing Needs Assessment was a critical component of the scan, shedding light on the specific housing challenges faced by low-income individuals and families. By analyzing CMHC data, EHW was able to pinpoint areas of greatest need and formulate targeted strategies to address these gaps. This assessment underscored the urgent necessity for affordable housing solutions that cater to the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Collaborative Efforts with the City and Province

To ensure a coordinated approach to affordable housing, EHW collaborated with both the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba. One of the key initiatives was the development of an affordable housing advisory committee. This committee, modeled after similar city-wide priorities such as active transportation and food security, aimed to provide direct advice to decision-makers. By doing so, it will enhance the strategic allocation of Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) funding, ensuring that investments are directed towards the most impactful projects.

Additionally, is partnering with the CoW to develop a live inventory of all available public properties. This initiative involved reviewing properties for suitability as potential affordable housing sites. Historically, the acquisition of land has been a significant hurdle for non-profits due to the opaque nature of how public lands are advertised and allocated. This collaboration aims to improve transparency and accessibility, making it easier for non-profits to identify and acquire suitable land for development.

Capacity Building for Affordable Housing Development

Recognizing the complexities involved in developing affordable housing, we initiated the creation of a training module specific to housing development processes and best practices. The aim is to demystify the development process for organizations, particularly non-profits, which often lack the expertise and resources to navigate these challenges effectively.

Furthermore, EHW identified a critical gap in pre-development work. To address this, we are developing a project charter for a capacity readiness arm of the housing supply pillar. This initiative aims to provide non-profits with cost-effective resources to assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of their housing concepts. By supporting these early-stage assessments, we want to empower organizations to pursue viable projects with greater confidence and clarity.

These efforts represents a significant step forward in Winnipeg's journey towards more equitable and affordable housing. Through strategic collaborations, data-driven assessments, and targeted capacity-building initiatives, End Homelessness Winnipeg is laying the groundwork for a future where affordable housing is accessible to all, particularly those most in need. This comprehensive approach not only addresses immediate housing shortages but also builds the foundation for sustainable, long-term solutions.

CONCLUSION

As we reflect on our journey toward addressing homelessness in Winnipeg, the appointment of a Senior Director of Strategy and Impact marks a pivotal moment in our commitment to sustainable change. As our original focus using the Collective Impact Model, our efforts have emphasized collaborative strategies and shared goals among diverse

stakeholders. This leadership ensures that End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) remains steadfast in supporting the community's aspirations to end homelessness.

Central to our progress is the establishment of the Community Sector Table, echoing our foundational efforts from 2014. This platform gathers stakeholders to critically evaluate our strategic plans, highlighting successes, addressing shortcomings, and distilling invaluable lessons learned. These insights, including effective collaborations and persistent challenges faced by our community, guide us in shaping future strategies.

Looking ahead, EHW is poised to enhance community engagement, explore innovative solutions, and sustain collaborative efforts to further our mission. By fortifying our role as the backbone organization, advocating for policy change, mobilizing resources, and building organizational capacities, we are committed to creating lasting solutions for homelessness in Winnipeg.

Through these concerted efforts, EHW continues to drive progress, ensuring that our city moves towards a future where equitable and affordable housing is accessible to all, affirming our commitment to a community-driven approach in tackling homelessness.