

Executive Summary

This report will provide information about a Homelessness Enumeration that will be conducted within the City of Greater Sudbury in March 2020. Participation in a Coordinated Point-In-Time Count is a requirement under the Federal Homelessness Funding Agreement with the City of Greater Sudbury and can be used as a benchmark against which progress in reducing homelessness can be measured.

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury has entered into a five-year funding agreement with the Federal government under the Reaching Home - Canada's Homelessness Strategy. One requirement of this funding agreement is that communities participate in a Coordinated Point-In-Time (PIT Count) Count of homelessness. The PIT Count must be conducted on a single night between March 1 and April 30, 2020.

A PIT Count of homelessness has two primary purposes:

- It is intended to identify how many people in a community experience homelessness in shelters and on the streets at a given time. Conducted over subsequent years, PIT Counts can be used by the community to track progress in reducing homelessness.
- Through an accompanying survey, the PIT Count gives the community information on the demographics and service needs of their homeless population. This information can be used to target community resources to where they are most needed.

The City of Greater Sudbury will lead the PIT Count and will partner with Indigenous and community service providers to conduct the one night PIT Count in late March 2020. Shelter and outreach staff will conduct surveys with people who are staying in an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or on the street. Trained enumerators will attend at the N'swakomok Native Friendship Centre, the Elgin Street Mission, and Sudbury Action Centre for Youth the following morning to complete surveys with people who may not have been surveyed the night before.

Previous Homelessness Enumeration

Previous homelessness PIT Counts were conducted in Greater Sudbury in 2018, 2015, and through a series of time studies between 2000 and 2007. Previous PIT Counts were completed using a period prevalence methodology conducted over a one-week to one-month period.

In 2018, the Provincial requirement for enumeration included surveying the "hidden homeless" which included people who were in hospital, treatment facilities, and couch

surfing. Efforts were made to enumerate people across the geographic boundaries of Greater Sudbury.

The 2020 PIT Count will differ from previous homelessness enumerations conducted within the City of Greater Sudbury as it will take place over one night only and will only count people who are staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or on the street. A PIT Count is not intended to measure everyone who experiences homelessness in a community over time, and the focus of the PIT Count is on those who are absolutely homeless.

Results Reporting

The results of the PIT Count will be reported to the Federal government and will contribute to the understanding of homelessness across Canada. The results will be reported publically to the community with specific efforts made to communicate the findings to those who work in the housing and homelessness sector and to those who experience homelessness. Finally, local leadership will use the results from the PIT Count in systems planning and resource allocation to address the service needs of people experiencing homelessness.

Next Steps

The City of Greater Sudbury has established a planning group with local service providers and are working on an implementation plan and timeline. The PIT Count will be conducted over one night in March 2020. The results of the PIT Count will be brought to the Community Services Committee and will further be reported in the annual Report Card on Homelessness.

References:

Everyone Counts: Coordinated Point-In-Time Counts in Canada
<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/resources/point-in-time.html>

City of Greater Sudbury – Homelessness Initiatives
<https://www.greatersudbury.ca/live/housing/homelessness-initiatives/>