

Background

The 20,000 Homes National Campaign (Campaign) is a national change movement focused on ending chronic homelessness in 20 communities and housing 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable homeless people by July 1, 2020. The Campaign is led by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness.

The Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness approached communities across Canada to participate in the Campaign to provide a united approach for national and provincial policy changes towards ending homelessness. The City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) registered with the 20,000 Homes National Campaign in 2018. Presently 44 communities across Canada have joined the Campaign, including 24 from Ontario: Brantford, Brockville, Chatham-Kent, Dufferin County, Guelph-Wellington, Halton, Hamilton, Kawartha Lakes and County Haliburton, Kingston, Lanark County, London, Northumberland County, Ottawa, Peel Region, Renfrew County, Sault Ste. Marie, Simcoe County, Stratford, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Waterloo Region, and Windsor.

The benefits for communities participating in the Campaign include:

- Access to coaching, support, and tools to embed cutting edge strategies for ending homelessness;
- Opportunities to network and learn from other communities;
- Unparalleled visibility of current homeless system;
- Becoming national leaders on data, system design, Housing First, and ending homelessness;
- Taking the driver's seat for national and provincial policy change; and
- Access to by-name list to advocate for policies and resources necessary to end homelessness.

The expectation for communities that participate in the Campaign is to create a by-name registry list of people experiencing homelessness, participate in monthly and quarterly de-identified data reporting, and be fully committed to functionally ending chronic homelessness by implementing the six Campaign principles, which are:

- Housing First;
- Knowing who's out there;
- Tracking progress;
- Improving local systems;

- Resolutely focused on our mission; and
- Taking action.

The goals of the 20,000 Homes National Campaign align with the CGS Housing First Strategy and priorities identified within the Ten-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan. Through the existing Housing First Program, CGS currently has a by-name list of the people who are experiencing homelessness and have voluntarily completed an assessment. This list will be enhanced during the homelessness enumeration that is being completed by Laurentian University in March 2018 and will continue to be developed within the homelessness service sector. Data is collected and progress is tracked in order to report on the number of people who have moved out of homelessness through the Housing First Program. As well, CGS has established a Housing First Steering Committee made up of stakeholders from various sectors within the community to help develop an integrated system of support for people experiencing homelessness.

Participating in the Campaign will provide additional resources, guidance, and networking opportunities to continue to develop an integrated system of support locally. CGS will continue to build a system that will support the Province's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025.

Next Steps

CGS will work with community partners for the continued development of a quality by-name list, data reporting and an integrated system to support people to end chronic homelessness. The Housing First Steering Committee will be asked to provide leadership for this initiative.

Reference:

20,000 Homes National Campaign Website
<http://www.20khomes.ca/>