

Housing First Program

City of Greater Sudbury

Community Services Committee

January 15, 2018



What is Housing First?

'**Housing First**' is a recovery oriented approach to ending homelessness that centers on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent *housing* and then providing additional supports and services as needed.

Demonstrated Success of Housing First



- At Home/Chez Soi- a federally funded demonstration project had overwhelming success
 - Over the two-year period following study entry, every \$10 invested in HF services resulted in an average savings of \$21.72
- Adopted by communities across Canada, United States and several other countries
- Guiding principle for Federal and Provincial homelessness funding programs
- Adopted by CGS as a strategy in 2006

Guiding Principles of Housing First

- Immediate access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements
- Consumer choice and self-determination
- Recovery orientation
- Individualized and client-driven supports
- Social and community integration



The Homelessness Network

The Homelessness Network is partnership of 6 agencies providing a Housing First Program in Greater Sudbury:

- Centre de santé communautaire de Sudbury (Corner Clinic)
- Elizabeth Fry Society
- John Howard Society
- N'swakomok Native Friendship Centre
- L'association des jeunes de la rue
- Sudbury Action Centre for Youth

The Homelessness Network provides:

- Centralized intake
- Prioritization assessment tool
- Case management support for people who need it the most
- Assistance to find safe, affordable housing
- Collaboration with community services to connect people to other supports as needed



Success to Date

Since January 2017 there have been:

- 144 persons experiencing homelessness have completed the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT)
- 124 persons provided with a Housing Case Manager;
- 31 persons provided with an Intensive Case Manager;
- 120 persons housed;
- Currently there are 69 active participants in the Housing First Program and 55 are housed.
- Community partners have reported that emergency shelter stays have decreased and persons who were previously chronically homeless are now housed and health outcomes have improved with the support of the Housing First program.

Additional Provincial Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Funding

The Province has announced that additional funds will be allocated through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding for the next two years.

Funding allocations from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2020 are as follows:

- 2016/2017 allocation - \$2,671,400
- 2017/2018 allocation - \$2,800,703 (\$129,303 increase over 2016/2017 allocation)
- 2018/2019 allocation - \$2,930,117(\$129,414 increase over 2017/2018 allocation)
- 2019/2020 allocation - \$3,059,602 (\$129,485 increase over 2018/2019 allocation)

Next Steps



- Request additional CHPI funds be allocated to the Housing First program to be able to assist more people
- Request that additional CHPI funding be added to the local CHPI program to prevent homelessness
- Request that policy changes occur to expand program eligibility and give discretion to keeping people housed
- Request an independent review of emergency shelter system