

Update: April 2015

This is the second Housing and Homelessness Partnership (the Partnership) update designed to keep you informed of our work and progress. The first update was in October 2014.

The Housing and Homelessness Partnership is a coalition of eight organizations committed to working together to put an end to homelessness and housing poverty in the Halifax Region. All eight partners have contributed financially and with supporting resources to the work of the Partnership. The parties include: Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, Capital Health, Halifax Regional Municipality, Housing Nova Scotia, Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia, IWK Health Centre, United Way Halifax.

What's New

- Housing Supply and Needs Assessment – almost complete
- Housing First Program – Phase One, including Key Dates
- Working Groups and Task teams
- Website development

Housing Supply and Needs Assessment – Affordable Housing Working Group

This important foundational piece identifies what inventory is available and/or underutilized and creates a comprehensive housing database. The assessment is close to being completed.

Research includes:

- Identifying the housing requirements in the Municipality based on housing supply and demand.
- Estimating future housing demand over a five and ten year period by dwelling type and tenure.

Work will:

- Support and provide direction for the members of the Housing and Homelessness Partnership.
- Inform current and future community planning.

Anticipated completion: May 2015

Housing First Program – Phase One – Homelessness Working Group

Housing First is a program and philosophy that accommodates people regardless of their challenges. It supports them to remain housed without a requirement that they first become “housing ready”. This program will begin by housing and supporting 50 of the city’s most chronically and repeatedly homeless individuals. We know from similar programs across North America that a Housing First Program is the most effective intervention to offer people who have long struggled with homelessness.

The first people in this phase of the program will start to move into housing in the fall 2015 with an Intensive Care Management (ICM) team in place. Ongoing evaluation will ensure the program is achieving its goals.

The Housing and Homelessness Partnership is looking for a Service Provider to partner in the implementation of this program. The Service Provider Partner application process is outlined in the table below.

IMPORTANT MEETING: If you are a service provider and interested in applying to become the Housing First Implementation Partner, you must attend an Expression of Interest (EOI) information session from 2pm to 4pm on Thursday April 30, 2015. Location: United Way Halifax, 46 Portland St. 7th floor, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1H4. RSVP: Jennifer Wilcox at: jwilcox@unitedwayhalifax.ca or call: 902 461-3080.

Key Dates for the Housing First Program – Phase One

Date	Activity
Thursday April 9	Homelessness Working Group (HWG) meeting – update on all HWG task teams.
Thursday April 30	Housing First Information Session - Expression of Interest. Service Providers who would like to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) must attend this session. Session will be from 2pm -4pm, United Way Halifax, 46 Portland St. 7th floor, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1H4. RSVP: Jennifer Wilcox at: jwilcox@unitedwayhalifax.com or call: 902 461-3080. Mandatory attendance in order to submit EOI. Full application package will be available.
Thursday May 28	EOI due - allows one full month from date of information session. This will ensure that interested organizations have sufficient time to discuss the anticipated program, and to decide whether to apply.
Friday May 29	Housing First Task Team meets to review submissions.
Tuesday June 2	EOI applicants will be informed whether they have been successful and move onto the next step – the full application process.
Thursday June 18	Full application due from selected applicants.
June 22 – 26	Housing First Task Team meets with full proposal applicants.
Monday June 29	Successful applicant chosen and all applicants informed.
Tuesday June 30	All Stakeholders informed.
July – August	Successful applicant prepares for September intake and housing to begin October. Organization recruits and builds ICM team.
September	Intake begins.
October	First residents housed.

Other Working Group Updates

Affordable Housing Working Group: in addition to the Housing Supply and Needs Assessment the Affordable Housing Working Group is working on:

- **Community Consultation Report**

This report is based on extensive consultation of the affordable housing sector in the Halifax region. Interviews took place between June and December 2014 and enabled the Working Group to establish the extent and condition of the existing stock, and identify problems relating to its retention, upgrading and growth. The report will be released in April.

- **Long-Term Work Plan**

A long-term work plan is underway that will identify key priorities, project costing and resourcing, as well as implementation timelines.

Homelessness Working Group: in addition to the Housing First Program, the Homelessness Working Group is working on issues that were identified as priorities including:

- Income Assistance Access and self-determination
- Emergency Housing
- Discharge Protocols
- Access to ID

Website: We are starting to work on a new website that will be launched in the late summer/fall. The website will be a resource to keep you updated with more detailed information on the work of Housing and Homelessness Partnership.

Contact: We would like to hear from you. Please contact Sue LaPierre, United Way Halifax, with your feedback or if you have any questions. Sue can be reached at slapierre@unitedwayhalifax.ca, or telephone: 902 461-3068.