

Reaching Home:
Halifax Regional Municipality
Community Plan
2024–2028

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Introduction

In completing this template, communities are encouraged to develop comprehensive Community Plans that reflect the contributions of all funding partners, including other orders of governments, not-for-profit organizations, and the for-profit sector. The Community Plan does not preclude adjustments in priorities throughout the funding cycle; communities are still expected and encouraged to regularly review priorities for investment with their Community Advisory Board(s), including sub-project approval.

To support communities in completing their Community Plan, a Reference Guide has been developed. It is strongly recommended that this be reviewed prior to completing this template to ensure understanding of the requirements.

Please note that in communities that receive funding from both the Designated Communities (DC) and Indigenous Homelessness (IH) streams, ongoing and meaningful cross-stream collaboration is expected to support the achievement of community-level outcomes reflecting the needs of the whole community.

The Community Plan for Reaching Home must be approved by the DC or TH Community Advisory Board (CAB) before it is submitted to Infrastructure Canada.

Additionally, if your community has an Indigenous Homelessness (IH) Community Advisory Board (I-CAB), they must affirm that they have been engaged on the Community Plan before it is submitted. If your community is developing a joint plan with the IH stream Community Entity, both CABs must approve the community plan prior to submission.

In addition to the core elements required in this template, communities are welcome to share any other information and/or documents that they feel might provide further insight into their local context as it relates to housing and/or homelessness context.

1. Community Engagement

As part of the community planning exercise, you must engage with community partners with the goal of understanding the needs of the local homelessness sector and identify local homelessness priorities using a coordinated, systems-based and data-driven approach.

Please describe the steps taken to engage your community partners in developing this Community Plan to ensure a community-based approach. Your response must include:

- *Which partners were engaged;*
- *When and how engagement occurred; and*
- *What aspects of the Community Plan were discussed, as well as what aspects of the Plan (i.e., decisions, outcomes, next steps) were influenced by these discussions.*

Note: *Meaningful collaboration with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners and service providers, as well as the IH CE and I-CAB where applicable, is expected in the development of this Community Plan and must be explicitly referenced in this section. The Indigenous Partners in Your Community worksheet created for the Community Homelessness Report (CHR) may be helpful to complete this section. Please see [CHR: Reporting Tools e-course on the Homelessness Learning Hub](#).*

Community planning efforts must be informed by the voices of those most impacted by homelessness—including people with lived experience, frontline service providers, and key community stakeholders. As part of the consultation and engagement activities leading to Destination HOME, key informant interviews were facilitated with community and governmental partners to gather feedback on Reaching Home and the current realities of homelessness and housing in HRM. In addition to the stakeholder interviews, a community survey was also distributed to organizations that serve people experiencing housing crises and homelessness. Community engagement opportunities began in November 2024 and continued until March 20, 2025.

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE PROFESSIONALS THAT SERVE THOSE WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS

Between February 19 and March 6, 2025, service providers across HRM were invited to participate in an anonymous four-question survey on homelessness and housing. The goal was to gather insights into their frontline experiences, challenges, and recommendations for improving service delivery. Despite their demanding workloads, 160 staff members responded—far exceeding expectations. The responses provided to the open-ended survey revealed perspectives from Indigenous, African Nova Scotian and Newcomer organizations that support people experiencing homelessness and housing crises.

PERSPECTIVES FROM PEOPLE WITH LIVED AND LIVING EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

In November 2024, Pivot Housing engaged with people that were housed and supported in a housing program attached to Reaching Home funding. Through the sharing of their experiences with the homelessness response and housing system in HRM, much insight was gained about successful engagements and services as well as opportunities for enhancement. In October 2024, OrgCode Consulting Inc. also had the opportunity to connect with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the city. Once again, the insights gathered during these conversations assisted in understanding strengths and weaknesses of the local system of care.

PERSPECTIVES FROM BUSINESS PARTNERS

In late November of 2024, Pivot Housing consulted with representatives from four separate business associations and/or business improvement districts to gather their insights on what is and is not working in the local response to homelessness as well as possible opportunities and direction of priorities moving forward. The experiences of businesses is of course unique, especially given the increasing visibility of homelessness in HRM.

PERSPECTIVES FROM OTHER KEY PARTNERS IN HRM RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING CRISES

In addition to people with lived/living experience, the staff that support them, and the business representatives that experience the visibility and impacts of homelessness daily, AHANS also worked to ensure that other key partners received an opportunity to participate in community engagement opportunities. Community engagement incorporated discussions with long standing Community Advisory Board members and the organizations that they support, including Nova Scotia Public Health, Shelter Nova Scotia, and the YWCA of Halifax. The Halifax Regional Municipality – Housing and Homelessness department participated in a stakeholder interview. In addition to the above, the following government departments and organizations were also invited to participate in key informant interviews between November 2024 and March 2025:

- Nova Scotia – Department of Opportunities and Social Development
- The United Way Halifax
- The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre as the Community Entity of the Indigenous Homelessness Stream

As these three partners are also members of the HRM Community Advisory Board, additional opportunities were available for them to provide input into the Community Plan document through the review and revision process of Destination HOME.

2. Investment Plan

2.1 In the table below, please identify your community's allocation of Reaching Home funding in the DC or TH and Community Capacity and Innovation (CCI) streams from 2024-25 to 2027-28¹.

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total
Reaching Home Annual Allocation	\$6,134,203	\$6,134,203	\$6,303,961	\$6,303,961	\$24,876,328

2.2 In the table below, please outline your planned division of DC/TH and CCI Reaching Home funding from 2024-25 to 2027-28 by activity area. Please note that it is acceptable that your community's funding priorities change over time. This investment plan is to demonstrate that your community has a vision of moving forward for the allocation of Reaching Home funding.

Activities area	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Housing Services	41%	41%	25%	25%
Prevention and Shelter Diversion	5%	5%	5%	5%
Client Support Services	20%	20%	20%	20%
Capital Investments	18%	14%	30%	30%
Coordination of Resources and Data Quality Improvement	1%	5%	5%	5%
Administration	15%	15%	15%	15%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

2.3 In the text box below, please describe how Community Capacity and Innovation (CCI) funding will be used to support coordinated and data-driven service delivery (e.g., supporting Coordinated Access, the Outcomes-Based Approach and use of HIFIS or existing, equivalent Homeless Management Information System).

¹ Communities on two-year agreement extensions should report on investment plans for 2024-25 and 2025-26 at this time.

CCI and admin funding will support coordinated data driven service delivery in the following ways: funding of positions internally at AHANS on the Reaching Home team to support coordinated access and By Name List processes, HIFIS training and support, community capacity building (training and coaching support) and administration of Reaching Home (activity and financial). Additional funding will be outsourced to YWCA Halifax via a Coordinated Access Community Partnership Project to develop and enhance current partnerships to ensure smooth transition of data sharing clusters and coordinated efforts for outcomes-based reporting.

3. Cost-Matching Requirement

3.1 In the table below, please outline all funding for homelessness initiatives expected to be received from other funders from 2024-25 to 2027-28². This includes both financial and in-kind contributions.

	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total
Reaching Home Annual Allocation	\$6,134,203	\$6,134,203	\$6,303,961	\$6,303,961	\$24,876,328

Projected Funding From Other Funders towards Homelessness Initiatives					
Program Name and Funder	2024-25 (\$)	2025-26 (\$)	2026-27 (\$)	2027-28 (\$)	Total (\$)
NS Dept of Opportunities and Social Development	500,000				
HRM – Housing and Homelessness	345,000	345,000	345,000	(not yet budgeted)	1,035,000
TOTAL					

² Communities on two-year agreement extensions should report on cost-matching for 2024-25 and 2025-26 at this time.

3.2 If your anticipated community contributions are not projected to match funding from Reaching Home for each year, please explain the circumstances below and include a description of the steps you will take to meet the requirement.

Efforts to contact the Nova Scotia Department of Opportunities and Social Development to confirm the details of funding commitments from 2024-28 were not met with a response. The only confirmed amounts are those listed above, but it is anticipated that additional funds will be made available.

4. Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS)

4.1 Using your 2023-24 CHR as a guide³, please check the box if you have met the following minimum requirements as of March 31, 2024⁴. Any status updates since March 31, 2024, must also be reflected:

Minimum Requirement	Has the MR been met?	Minimum Requirement	Has the MR been met?
HIFIS MR 1	N/A	HIFIS MR 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
HIFIS MR 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HIFIS MR 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4.2 For each minimum requirement that has not yet been met (as identified in 4.1), complete a table below to describe how you will meet it by March 31, 2026. Please note that confirmation that communities are on track to do this will be required by October 31, 2025.

Minimum Requirement not yet met: Not applicable	
What are the next steps the community will take to meet this requirement?	Target date for completion

³ For more information on how the minimum requirements align with your Community Homelessness Report, please consult the Community Plan Guide.

⁴ Communities with two-year agreement extensions are not required to complete section 4 at this time.

5. Coordinated Access

5.1 Using your 2023-24 CHR as a guide⁵, please check the box if you have met the following minimum requirements as of March 31, 2024⁶. Any status updates since March 31, 2024, must also be reflected:

Minimum Requirement	Has the MR been met?	Minimum Requirement	Has the MR been met?
CA MR 1	N/A	CA MR 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
CA MR 2	N/A	CA MR 11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA MR 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA MR 12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA MR 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA MR 13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA MR 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	CA MR 14	<input type="checkbox"/>
CA MR 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA MR 15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA MR 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA MR 16	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA MR 8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA MR 17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CA MR 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	CA MR 18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.2 For each minimum requirement that has not yet been met (as identified in 5.1), complete a table below to describe how you will meet it by March 31, 2026. Note that confirmation that communities are on track to do this will be required by October 31, 2025.

Minimum requirement not yet met: CA MR 5	
What are the next steps the community will take to meet this requirement?	Target date for completion
2.1c is complete.	NA
2.1d is under development working with the sector and the provincial funders to ensure alignment	2025-09-01

Minimum Requirement not yet met: CA MR 9	
What are the next steps the community will take to meet this requirement?	Target date for completion
Reaching Home and NS funded programs (including their eligibility criteria and service delivery) are known due to their participation in Coordinated Access.	2025-06-01
In addition to the funded homelessness and housing program, a more detailed resource inventory is developed and under finalization	

⁵ For more information on how the minimum requirements align with your CHR, please consult the Community Plan Guide.

⁶ Communities with two-year agreement extensions are not required to complete section 5 at this time.

Minimum Requirement not yet met: CA MR 10	
What are the next steps the community will take to meet this requirement?	Target date for completion
Once the inventory is finalized, details of the eligibility criteria will be compiled from all agencies included in the inventory	2025-09-01

Minimum Requirement not yet met: CA MR 14	
What are the next steps the community will take to meet this requirement?	Target date for completion
A partnership with YWCA has been developed (and funded through Reaching Home) to monitor access to the coordinated access system in HRM. These positions commenced in March 2025 and are currently being onboarded. Once onboarded, they will work with community partners to ensure equitable access to CA via site visits, monitoring of processes, etc.	2025-10-01

5.3 Describe how ongoing, meaningful collaboration on Coordinated Access between Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners has or will take place as your community works to implement, maintain and improve a Coordinated Access system.

1. In 2024, the CAS/HIFIS governance committee successfully completed a CA and HIFIS policy review with updates and revisions incorporated into the local Policy Manual for CA. Late in 2024, these committees split into separate CAS and HIFIS committees, expanding the CE's ability to invite additional community partners to participate in these processes. The HIFIS Policies and Procedures Guide is provided to all new users of HIFIS during the onboarding process. The CAS Policy Manual is under additional revision due to alignment with provincial funding partners and upcoming data sharing processes and will be released in April 2025.
2. AHANS has actively engaged a HIFIS enhancement project for all of Nova Scotia that includes ensuring that all HIFIS agencies are configured properly to reflect their current services and resources. The HIFIS Reconfiguration Project also supports moving our community (and other rural communities throughout the province) to formalized data sharing via HIFIS to ensure that the only shared dataset is no longer the By Name List. This will set the stage for the activation of the coordinated access module in HIFIS so the BNL and priority list can be generated within the HIFIS platform. This project is a massive change management exercise for both Reaching Home and provincially funded agencies.
3. Part of the HIFIS Reconfiguration/Enhancement Project also included redevelopment of HIFIS training via online, on demand training sessions that are specific to the positions in our community as well as the programs and services provided. The training website is readily available to all community partners.
4. To complete a more comprehensive Resource Inventory, AHANS partnered with Helpseeker to conduct a data scraping of all datasets to identify all housing/homelessness response agencies as well as ancillary projects.
5. As a community, we will continue to engage with individuals with lived/living experience of homelessness to better inform the work we do.

6. Outcomes-Based Approach

6.1 Using your 2023-24 Community Homelessness Report as a guide⁷, please check the box if you have met the following minimum requirements as of March 31, 2024⁸. Any status updates since March 31, 2024, must also be reflected:

Minimum Requirement	Has the MR been met?	Minimum Requirement	Has the MR been met?
OBA MR 1	N/A	OBA MR 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OBA MR 2	N/A	OBA MR 7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OBA MR 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OBA MR 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
OBA MR 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OBA MR 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
OBA MR 5	<input type="checkbox"/>		

6.2 For each minimum requirement that has not yet been met (as identified in 6.1), including those modified and new as of 2024-25, complete a table below to describe how you will meet it by March 31, 2026. Please note that confirmation that communities are on track to do this will be required by October 31, 2025.

Minimum Requirement not yet met: OBA MR 5	
What are the next steps the community will take to meet this requirement?	Target date for completion
All MRs met except 2.18b : The priority list/BNL will be generated from HIFIS upon merging of all agencies in HRM into a single data sharing cluster.	2025-04-30

Minimum Requirement not yet met: OBA MR 8	
What are the next steps the community will take to meet this requirement?	Target date for completion
This is met on an annual level but not monthly. Data sharing and generation of the BNL/priority list from HIFIS will facilitate the ability to track this monthly.	2025-04-30

Minimum Requirement not yet met: OBA MR 9	
What are the next steps the community will take to meet this requirement?	Target date for completion
Once data sharing is fully implemented, this will be resolved.	2025-04-30

⁷ For more information on how the minimum requirements align with your Community Homelessness Report, please consult the Community Plan Guide.

⁸ Communities with two-year agreement extensions are not required to complete section 6 at this time.

6.3 Please describe how ongoing and meaningful collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners has or will take place as your community works to meet the OBA minimum requirements. In communities where the Designated Communities and Indigenous Homelessness streams co-exist, collaboration with the IH-CE and I-CAB (where applicable) is expected.

AHANS as the CE for the Designated Community stream has collaborated with Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre as the Indigenous CE to complete several projects over the 2024-25 fiscal year, with planned continued collaboration for 2025-26 and beyond. A representative from Native Council of Nova Scotia and Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre (as Indigenous RH CE) hold seats on the Community Advisory Board to ensure alignment with Indigenous best practices for funding decisions for RH funding. Community data sharing agreements have been developed and broadly distributed with town hall style meetings being conducted in the community to ensure understanding and expectations of all service providers who participate in coordinated access and are funded both provincially and through Reaching Home investments. When the merging of all agencies into one data cluster occurs in April 2025, outcomes-based reporting processes will be streamlined and simplified. Collaboration with the Province of Nova Scotia ensured that provincial data outcomes are aligned with Reaching Home expectations so that agencies are not required to have multiple outcomes for multiple funders.

7. Official Language Minority Communities

The Government of Canada has a responsibility under the [Official Languages Act](#) to ensure that programs and services meet the needs of Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs). Please describe the steps that you will take to ensure that the services funded under [Reaching Home](#) take the needs of the OLMCs into consideration, where applicable.

Though historically calls for proposals and other documentation was not provided in both official languages, AHANS as the Community Entity for Reaching Home will be working with community partners to ensure that these documents are made available if requested in both official languages. We anticipate this work can be completed by March 31, 2026.

According to limited data, a very small percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness are members of the official language minority community, so this has not previously been flagged as a need for our community. That said, to ensure alignment with federal policies, AHANS will strive to ensure services are available for this population with at least one agency in HRM. Currently, Reaching Home funds Halifax Refugee Clinic, which supports clients not only in both the official languages but also in 10 other languages meeting the culturally diverse needs of our community. Data sharing will also assist in monitoring of the potential future need for expansion of official language minority group services within the homelessness and rehousing sector.

8. Community Advisory Board—Designated Communities/Territorial Homelessness

Note: You may list more than one name/organization for each sector, and you may list a name/organization in more than one sector, as applicable.

(Lines below can be removed where not applicable)

Sector	CAB Members
Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (Ex-Officio Member)	Tanya Borden, Ashley Staples
Community Entity (Ex-Officio Member)	Michael Kabalen, Melissa Salah, Melanie Deveaux
Provincial/Territorial government	Lisa Ryan – Department of Opportunities and Social Development
Local/Municipal government	Max Chauvin – Halifax Regional Municipality
Indigenous Peoples, nations and organizations, Friendship Centres	Buffy Keillor – Native Council of Nova Scotia
Indigenous Housing Organizations	Cheyenne Labrador – Mi'Kmaq Native Friendship Centre
Organizations serving survivors of domestic violence and their families	Meghan Hansford – Adsum for Women & Children
The private sector	Jeff Karabanow – Dalhousie School of Social Work
Health organizations, including hospitals and other public health institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addictions	Position currently vacant
Veterans Affairs Canada and/or Veterans-serving organizations	Position currently vacant
Organizations serving individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness	Terence Hale – Salvation Army, Miia Suokonautio – YWCA Halifax
Other	Kevin Hooper – United Way

CAB Chairs or Co-Chairs (if applicable):

I affirm that the above members of the CAB have reviewed the attached Community Plan, and that a majority of CAB members approve of its content.

Max Chauvin

Name

Max Chauvin

Signature

2025-03-31

Date (YYYY-MM-DD)

Name

Signature

Date (YYYY-MM-DD)

Name

Signature

Date (YYYY-MM-DD)

9. Community Advisory Board—Indigenous Homelessness

Note: You may list more than one name/organization for each sector, and you may list a name/organization in more than one sector, as applicable.

(Lines below can be removed where not applicable)

Sector	CAB Members
Infrastructure Canada (Ex-Officio Member)	
Community Entity (Ex-Officio Member)	
Provincial/Territorial government	
Local/Municipal government	
Indigenous government	
Individuals with lived experience of homelessness	
Indigenous Peoples, nations and organizations, Friendship Centres	
Indigenous housing organizations	
Youth and/or child-serving organizations, including Child Welfare agencies	
Organizations serving survivors of domestic violence and their families	
Seniors and senior-serving organizations	
Newcomers and newcomer-serving organizations	
The private sector	
Police and correctional services	
Landlord associations and/or the housing sector	
Health organizations, including hospitals and other public health institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addictions	
Veterans Affairs Canada and/or Veterans-serving organizations	
Organizations serving individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness	
Other	

Indigenous CAB Chairs or Co-Chairs (if applicable):

(If Community Plan is not a joint plan): I affirm that the above members of the Community Advisory Board have been engaged on the Coordinated Access and Outcomes-Based Approach sections of the attached Community Plan.

OR

(If Community Plan is a joint plan): I affirm that the above members of the CAB have reviewed the attached Community Plan, and that a majority of CAB members approve of its content.

Name

Signature

Date (YYYY-MM-DD)

Name

Signature

Date (YYYY-MM-DD)

Name

Signature

Date (YYYY-MM-DD)