

Reaching Home Chilliwack

Community Plan

2021 – 2024

Note:

All communities receiving funding from Designated Communities stream are required to use this template in order to complete the community plan under Reaching Home. 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.

Please note that in communities that receive funding from both the Designated Communities and Indigenous Homelessness streams, cross-stream collaboration is expected to promote the adoption of a community-wide planning process and support the achievement of community-level outcomes reflecting the needs of the whole community. To support communities in completing their community plans, a Reference Guide has been developed. It is recommended that this be reviewed prior to completing your community's homelessness plan to ensure understanding of the requirements and completeness.

The Community Plan for Reaching Home must be approved by the Community Advisory Board (CAB) of the Designated Community before it is submitted to Service Canada. If your community is developing a joint plan with the Indigenous Community Entity, both Community Advisory Boards must approve the community plan.

In addition to the core requirements provided in this template, communities may also wish to include other components that provide insight into the community's housing and homelessness context or contribute to community-level homelessness challenges, such as a map of the community's current homelessness services and/or gaps in homelessness services or infrastructure (e.g. housing stock). Communities have full flexibility in drafting these sections.

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Introduction

On May 12, 2020, the City of Chilliwack officially became a “Designated Community” under the Federal Government’s Reaching Home Program, which brings with it over \$1.7 million in funding over four years to address homelessness in Chilliwack. In accordance with the requirements of the Reaching Home Program, this Plan has been developed to guide decision making regarding the allocation of annual funding to sub-projects to achieve Reaching Home objectives, and to communicate the steps that are being to establish a Coordinated Access system in Chilliwack by March 2023.

It is expected that this Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Chilliwack Reaching Home Community Advisory Board and City of Chilliwack as the Community Entity.

1. Community Engagement

In developing this plan, the City consulted with all major stakeholders, including shelter and supportive housing operators; health and social service providers, BC Housing and the Fraser Health Authority. This Included indigenous organizations (e.g. Stó:lō Nation Health Services, Wilma’s Transition Society) and non-indigenous organizations that provide indigenous cultural supports (Pacific Community Resources Society, Fraser Health Authority, School District #33). Engagement took place primarily through group discussion, building on existing committees and complementary initiatives, as well as through a survey that was distributed to additional organizations on the advice of the Chilliwack Reaching Home Community Advisory Board

Community Engagement

1.1 Housing First Task Team

This committee, established in 2014, was instrumental in developing the 2016 Homelessness Action Plan, advocating for housing with high supports (2 projects of 46 units each were funded by the Province in 2019), the establishment of an Integrated Case Management Team (funded by the Health Authority) and the City’s successful application to become a designated community under the federal Reaching Home program. In 2020, bimonthly meetings focus on information sharing and collaboration amongst partners to support homelessness prevention, shelter and supports and implementation of Chilliwack’s 2016 Homelessness Action Plan

The committee is comprised of representatives of a wide range of organizations including shelter and supportive housing providers, indigenous partners, health authority, provincial housing programs:

- Chilliwack Housing for Homeless Foundation
- Ruth & Naomi's Shelter
- Salvation Army
- Wilma's Transition Society
- Chilliwack Citizens for Change
- Chilliwack Community Services
- Pacific Community Resources Society (Housing Hub)
- BC Housing
- Fraser Health Authority
- Stó:lō Nation Health Services
- Rain City Housing
- City of Chilliwack
- Cyrus Centre (youth shelter and services)
- Ann Davis Transition Society
- Chilliwack Society for Community Living

At the December 2, 2020 meeting, this committee received a presentation and discussed the prioritization of funding which would have the greatest impact with respect to achieving Reaching Home objectives. Housing Services, Homelessness Prevention & Diversion, and Outreach were identified as activities with the greatest impact; however, there is concern about activities that do not have sustainable funding (i.e. one-time grants). Overall, it was decided that given the limited amount of funding, capital investments would be limited and that this category is largely covered by provincial investment from BC Housing, contributions by the City (fee waivers, permissive tax exemptions, and occasionally cash contributions in lieu of site provision).

1.2 Homelessness Focus Group Discussion

As part of the City's Integrated Community Safety Task Force initiative to develop a community plan for Chilliwack, community engagement sessions and personal interviews with key stakeholders was undertaken in February and in November 2020. As a result of this, the following priorities were discussed with respect to Housing Services, Homelessness Prevention and Outreach:

- More street outreach is needed – this includes increased hours (longer days), increasing the number of people undertaking outreach on the street, the need to provide culturally appropriate supports for indigenous individuals
- Greater coordination amongst service providers providing outreach is also need. An increase in capacity and clear roles need to be well defined, not just coordinated in an office and depending on referrals. People with appropriate skills, knowledge and abilities to address mental health, addiction

- There is a need to review strategies - for people who are falling between the cracks – who don't come inside due to barriers or perceived barriers - strategies are needed to get people in. Social Navigators are needed, not just connectors – people who have the ability to act.
- There is a need for additional affordable rental housing and supportive housing
- Peer employment project for Harm Reduction and overdose response – Breaking Barriers, indicates that there is a desire for people to help. Opportunities to train people with lived experience to deal with crisis situations should be explored. “Nothing About Us Without Us” recommendation is based on a best practice

1.3 Reaching Home Community Advisory Board

The Reaching Home Community Advisory Board met on January 14, 2021 to discuss the Community Homelessness Plan, Coordinated Access and Investment Priorities. .

It was identified that the greatest impact in reducing homelessness would be to prioritize investment firstly in Housing services (transitioning people from homelessness to housing), and secondarily in prevention and shelter diversion, and support services to ensure housing is retained successfully. While capital investments are needed to increase the supply of supportive housing overall, it was acknowledged that Reaching Home funding was not significant enough to make an impact in new builds; however, it may be helpful to support small repairs and minor renovations. There was also acknowledgement of the need to collect data and information regarding homelessness to best address it. The Investment Plan was approved by the CAB at the meeting.

Many of the same agencies who are represented on the Housing First Task Team are also represented on the Reaching CAB, with the addition of RCMP, BIA, and Tzeachten First Nation

- Wilma's House
- Ruth and Naomi's Mission
- Chilliwack Society for Community Living
- Pacific Community Resources Society
- Cyrus Centre
- Chilliwack Seniors Society
- Ann Davis Transition Society
- Chilliwack Community Services
- Salvation Army

- RCMP
- Fraser Health Authority
- Downtown BIA
- Tzeachten First Nation
- Stó:lō Service Agency
- BC Housing

Additional suggestions for community engagement and individuals to be consulted were made. Given the short time frame for completion of the Plan, this was undertaken via online survey. Over the course of the coming year, further consultation is planned, and investment plan priorities will be reevaluated by the CAB

1.4 Survey

An online survey was conducted between January 21 and 28, 2021. Survey links were shared with the Community Advisory Board and representatives from the following organizations:

- School District #33 (Aboriginal Education Department)
- Xyólheméylh
- Sardis Doorway,
- First Nations Health Authority

Responses from the survey were in alignment with the investment priorities recommended by the Community Advisory Board. Additional input included the following needs:

- Increased street outreach that promotes connection to mental health support
- Early intervention to those facing trauma / hardship that can lead to homelessness
- Low barrier housing with multi agency supports
- Stronger transitional support for youth aging out of care (MCFD & FVACFSS) in the form of a program that provides 1-1 support to youth to continue to stabilize and develop life skills after their support has ended from the ministry at 19.
- Rent subsidy programs to prevent homelessness;
- Better navigational supports of the Income Assistance Program;

- More collaborative programs being housed in the same building to provide quick and easy access to essential services for those at-risk of homeless (focusing on prevention)
- Housing and supports with options to be dependant to independent. wellness workers, counselling. Wellness program.
- Opportunities for members to become the lived experience mentors and program developers.

2. Investment Plan

The table below, outlines planned allocation of Chilliwack Reaching Home funding from 2020-21 to 2023-24 by activity area. These funding priorities may change over time and as such, will be re-evaluated on an annual basis.

Reaching Home Annual Allocation for Sub-Projects *

2021-2022: \$ 358,867

2022-2023: \$ 358,867

2023-2024: \$ 358,867

	2020-2021 *	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Housing Services	n/a	32 %	32 %	32 %
Prevention and shelter diversion	n/a	20 %	20 %	20 %
Health and Medical Services*	n/a	-		
Support Services	n/a	20 %	20 %	20 %
Capital Investments	n/a	3 %	3 %	3 %
Coordination of Resources and Data Collection	n/a	10 %	10 %	10 %
Administration	n/a	15 %	15 %	15 %
TOTAL	n/a	100%	100 %	100 %

* The City of Chilliwack

3. Cost-Matching Requirement

The table below outlines all (known and anticipated) funding for homelessness initiatives our community plans to receive from external partners from 2020-2021 to 2023-24. This includes both financial and in-kind contributions.

Program Name and Funder	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Housing Hub					
City of Chilliwack	\$110,000	\$110,000			\$220,000
BC Housing	\$221,000	\$221,000	\$221,000	\$221,000	\$884,000
New Shelter & Supportive Housing Project					
BC Housing		\$6,000,000			\$6,000,000
City of Chilliwack	\$450,000 ¹	\$1,200,000 ²			\$1,650,000
ICM/Outreach					
Fraser Health Authority	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000
BC Housing Program Operations					
	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$32,000,000
Paramount Seniors Affordable Rental / Youth Supportive Housing					
City of Chilliwack		\$1,500,000 ³			\$1,500,000
BC Housing		\$6,000,000			\$6,000,000
New Supportive Housing Project TBD					
City of Chilliwack				\$700,000 ⁴	\$700,000
BC Housing				\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
TOTAL	\$9,781,000	\$24,031,000	\$9,221,000	\$15,921,000	\$58,954,000

¹ Cash contribution in lieu of site for Cyrus Centre “The Switchback” youth housing

² \$700,000 allocated to Homelessness Initiatives in City Financial Plan (CMP budget) and \$500,000 fee waivers consistent with previous approvals e.g. \$577,000 waived for 46 unit modular housing project (Trethewey)

³ Estimated value of Paramount site (\$650,000) plus fee waivers \$500,000

⁴ \$700,000 allocation to Homelessness Initiatives in City Financial Plan 2021 (CMP budget)

4. Coordinated Access

BC Housing has a Coordinated Access table in Chilliwack for the purpose of moving people into two supported housing developments (92 units). The table consists of shelter providers (Cyrus Centre, Ruth & Naomi's, and Salvation Army), downtown security, social assistance, supportive housing providers (Rain City), and health and social support service providers including the Intensive Case Management team. They manage a waitlist, and place people according to best fit and greatest need. Shelter providers are using HIFIS.

Additional work will be required to expand Coordinated Access to meet Reaching Home requirements by March 2023. Trilateral discussions are taking place between BC designated communities, ESDC, and BC Housing, with respect to Coordinated Access and Chilliwack will be following this closely.

The following steps have been identified:

1. Discussion with CAEH regarding anticipated training and support
2. Establishment of a CA Working Group
Raise awareness of Coordinated Access within the context of Reaching Home - Partners are made aware of CA and its importance; Partners agree to support CA and HIFIS implementation next steps
3. Establishment of a governance structure
4. Program design:
 - Design access points to service
 - Develop a triage & assessment process
 - Select prioritization criteria
 - Develop vacancy matching & referral process
 - HIFIS
5. Maintenance & Improvement
 - Work towards real time, high quality data
 - Ongoing training and technical assistance
 - Monitor progress with community outcomes & adjust course as needed

5. Community-Wide Outcomes

As Chilliwack is a new CE, the Chilliwack Community Advisory Board has determined it will not establish additional outcomes *beyond those [mandated by Reaching Home](#), at this time*

6. 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 the Reaching Home take the needs of the [OLMCs](#) into consideration where applicable.

All documentation is provided in English based on community demographic information. The 2016 Census shows only 20 people out of 99,860 within Chilliwack speak French only, and service providers do not offer documentation or services in French.

Characteristic	Chilliwack British Columbia [Census agglomeration]		
	Data quality		Map
	Change geography		
	Total	Male	Female
Counts (unless otherwise specified)			
Knowledge of official languages 			
Total - Knowledge of official languages for the total population excluding institutional residents - 100% data 15	99,860	48,965	50,895
English only	94,865	46,805	48,065
French only	20	10	10
English and French	4,450	1,895	2,560
Neither English nor French	520	260	260

7. Designated Communities – Community Advisory Board

Note: You may list more than one name for each sector. ESDC will not sell, distribute, trade or transfer your information to other government departments, businesses, institutions, organizations or individuals outside ESDC for any other purposes, unless required by law.

Sector	Community Advisory Board Members
Service Canada (Ex-Officio Member)	Kiran Sall, Service Canada
Provincial/Territorial government	Dan Bibby MCFD Frank Tick, BC Housing
Local/Municipal government	Mayor Ken Popove, Councillor Harv Westeringh
Indigenous Peoples and organizations	Chief Derek Epp, Tzeachten First Nation Catherine Finney, Sto:lo Service Agency
Veterans Affairs Canada or veterans serving organizations	
Organizations serving women/families fleeing violence	Patty McAhonic, Ann Davis Transition Society Kathleen Mosa, Wilma's Transition House
Youth and/or youth serving organizations (including Child Welfare Agencies)	Cyrus Centre
Organizations serving seniors	Kelly Velonis, Chilliwack & District Seniors Resource Society
Newcomer serving organizations	Diane Janzen, Chilliwack Community Services
Health organizations, including hospitals and other public institutions, and organizations focused on mental health and addictions	Jennifer Hawkins, Fraser Health Authority Steve Esau, Pacific Community Resources Society
Individuals with lived experience of homelessness	To be determined
Organizations serving individuals experiencing, or at risk of experiencing homelessness	Warren Schatz, Salvation Army Bill Raddatz, Ruth & Naomi's Mission
Private Sector	John Schulstad, Downtown Business Improvement Association
Landlord Associations and/or the housing sector	
Community Member RCMP Accessibility & Inclusion	Corinne McCabe Bryon Massie, RCMP Julie Unger, Chilliwack Society for Community Living

Community Advisory Board Chairs or Co-Chairs (if applicable):

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

Mayor Ken Popove, CAB Chair

Signature

Date (2021-02-09)

Councillor Harv Westeringh,
CAB Vice-Chair

Signature

Date (2021-02-09)

