



Action Plan on Homelessness

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Action Plan on Homelessness | Community and Social Services

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Introduction

Albertans are concerned about homelessness in their communities. Its occurrence is a human tragedy that no one should have to endure. Aside from losing a place to call home, those experiencing homelessness have often suffered other losses – such as their relationships, their health, their employment and even their hope for the future.

Homelessness also incurs financial impacts, through more frequent use of hospital emergency departments, greater contact with the justice system, and the need for heightened emergency responses. This is costly for communities and places pressure on public services.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to take action on homelessness.

A complex array of social and economic factors contribute to homelessness, but it is often exacerbated by swings in the business cycle. During periods of growth, higher market rents and more people moving to Alberta have historically correlated with increased homelessness in communities.

Over the past three years, the Government of Alberta has undertaken substantial efforts to turn our province around and bring jobs and prosperity back to Alberta. This is getting results: Alberta's GDP increased 5.1% in 2021 and is forecast to increase another 5.4% in 2022.

As Alberta experiences economic growth, it makes sense to plan and position communities for potential impacts with respect to homelessness.

This needs to be done with a recognition that the landscape is changing.

For example, many of those experiencing homelessness are also experiencing other challenges: an estimated 43 per cent are experiencing substance use issues and 42 per cent are experiencing mental health issues. Moreover, the rise in opioid and methamphetamine use has caused substance use and mental health issues to become more entangled, making it more difficult to render assistance. Access to appropriate housing options that are combined with health and social supports remains challenging. Numerous communities are struggling with concerns around public safety, social disorder and encampments.

At the same time, while the COVID-19 pandemic caused upheaval in service delivery, this also yielded valuable lessons about how responses to homelessness can be enhanced.

Earlier this year, these and related issues were examined by the Coordinated Community Response to Homeless Task Force, which submitted its report to the Minister of Community and Social Services in summer 2022. Informed by the Task Force's advice, the Government of Alberta has developed this *Action Plan on Homelessness*.

Building on Successes

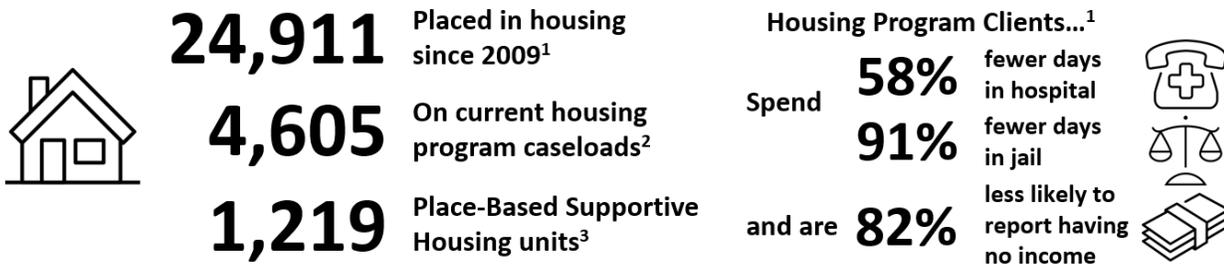
The *Action Plan* builds on considerable work that our province has already undertaken to address and reduce homelessness. In 2009, Alberta demonstrated national leadership in committing to *A Plan for Alberta*, a 10-year provincial plan for addressing homelessness. That plan set out a strategic response for change at the community and provincial levels.

Substantial investments have been made since 2009, leading to many impressive achievements, including:

- Placement of almost 25,000 individuals in housing, since 2009.
- Development of a robust system of housing linked with supports, including an array of approaches such as rapid re-housing, intensive case management, and assertive community treatment programs.
- Establishment of over 1,200 units of housing with supports offered on-site.
- Substantial reductions in housing program client's use of emergency public services, including 58 per cent fewer days in hospital and 91 per cent fewer days in jail, compared to the year before they were housed.

- Better connections of housing program clients with income sources and community resources, with clients 82 per cent less likely to report having no source of income when exiting programs compared to when they entered.

IMPACTS OF CSS HOMELESS-SERVING SYSTEM INVESTMENTS



Sources: ¹ Housing program provincial assessment information. ² Caseload estimates provided by CBOs, valid as of January 31, 2022. ³ 2022-23 CBO Service Delivery Plans

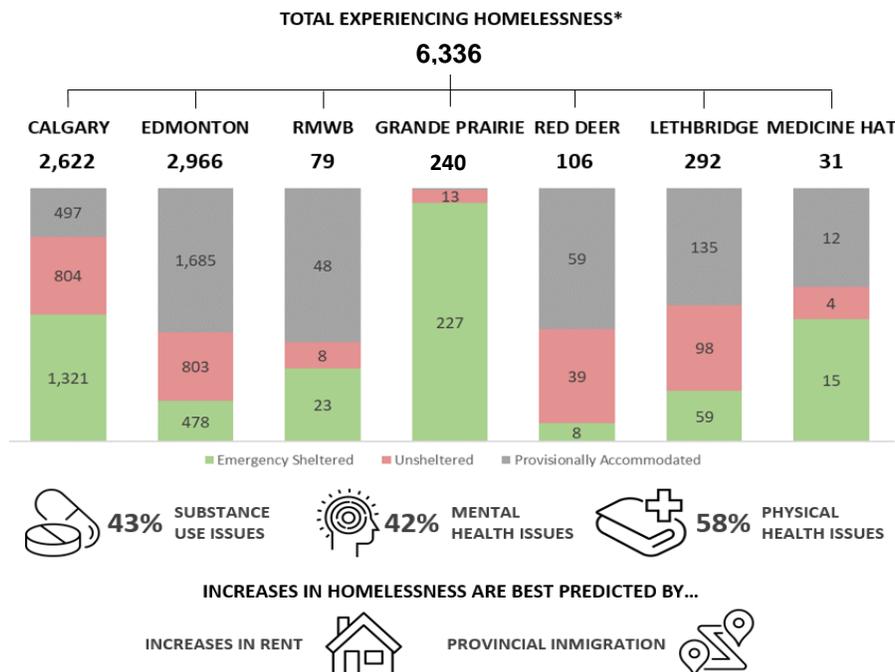
Ongoing Work to Address the Challenge

Investments to address homelessness have continued beyond the tenure of the 10-year provincial plan, including substantial funding this year.

During 2022-23, the Government of Alberta is investing almost \$138 million in responses to homelessness, including:

- \$48.7 million to support approximately 3,500 spaces in 27 shelters in eight communities in Alberta. This includes overnight emergency drop-in shelters and transitional shelters.
- \$89.6 million to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in each of Alberta's seven major cities, which support projects based upon assessments of local need.

The challenge of homelessness has continued. As of January 31, 2022, over 6,400 Albertans were recorded as experiencing homelessness, including nearly 4,000 using emergency shelters or on the streets.



*Estimates based on community By Name List information as of January 31, 2022.

While these figures represent a marked decrease compared to a high of 7,827 in 2008, homelessness has re-emerged as an issue in communities across the province. This is despite strong efforts at the community and provincial levels to provide assistance to those experiencing homelessness. In fact, currently 4,605 individuals are on housing program caseloads.

The *Action Plan on Homelessness* recognizes the need to change the current trajectory.

A Strong Foundation for Continued Progress

The *Action Plan on Homelessness* will be undertaken amid other ongoing strategic initiatives that will serve as a strong foundation for continued progress on addressing homelessness.

These are premised on a number of innovative changes in service delivery that were required during the onset of COVID-19, and proved effective in providing value while better meeting the needs of clients. Embedding these service delivery changes will establish a new foundation for the provincial homelessness-serving system.

1. Supporting shelters to adopt a housing-focused approach.

In adopting a housing-focused approach, shelters undertake programming that empowers clients to return to, or move into, stable accommodation as soon as possible.

This evolves the roles of shelters, so they are more than places to stay overnight and instead are durably linked to the overall homeless-serving system and the goals of re-housing clients. Housing-focused supports in shelters can include:

- assessing the needs of clients and diverting people to housing options; and
- undertaking planning work with clients for transition to housing linked with supports.

By implementing a housing-focused approach in shelters, our province can be more effective in helping those experiencing homelessness to access safe, appropriate shelter and achieve and maintain housing stability.

2. Supporting shelters to adopt a recovery-oriented approach.

Statistics indicate a significant proportion of individuals experiencing homelessness are dealing with substance use challenges, such as opioids or methamphetamines. Given this, a recovery-oriented system of care is a vital component in overall efforts to address homelessness. A recovery-oriented approach requires a coordinated network of person-centered, community-based services and supports that builds on the strengths and resilience of individuals, families and communities, to achieve improved health and wellness. It is designed as a voluntary approach that focuses on supporting individuals in achieving their goals and addressing barriers, with connection to natural and social supports, which is at the core of all programs focused on ending homelessness.

Central to recovery-oriented services is a collaborative, multi-sectoral approach. In shelters, recovery-oriented supports often include elements such as:

- referrals to detox and treatment services; and
- on-site nursing staff and clinical in-reach from AHS and other community partners.

By implementing a recovery-oriented approach in shelters, frontline staff can better connect those experiencing homelessness with appropriate recovery-oriented supports, to help break the cycle of homelessness.

3. Redeveloping a new provincial Homelessness Management Information System.

Currently, stakeholders in Alberta's homelessness-serving system use multiple information systems. These systems are not integrated at a provincial level, making it difficult for service providers to share information and collaborate on service provision. Alberta Community and Social Services is collaborating with stakeholders to redevelop the provincial Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which will permit a shift to outcomes-focused accountability, increased data quality and improved system-wide data governance.

A new HMIS may also permit the government and stakeholders to use data, evidence and analytics to:

- support innovation and flexibility in service delivery;
- assess shelter and housing/support program capacities in real-time;

- inform decision-making on resource allocation, policy development and program design;
 - better understand chronic and episodic homelessness; and
 - track transitions across the homeless-serving system of care and match people to appropriate programs and services.
- A redeveloped HMIS will result in increased accountability and transparency, an increased focus on data-driven service delivery, and ultimately improved services and better outcomes for those experiencing homelessness.

4. Focusing on results.

Alberta Community and Social Services has developed a logic model and specific outcomes for shelters that will help ensure shelters are using provincial funding to deliver the right services to individuals experiencing homelessness. This will enhance accountability for public funds while helping guide measurement, data collection and reporting in key service delivery areas including:

- providing clients with 24/7 access to safe and appropriate shelter services;
- helping clients achieve and maintain housing stability through implementation of a housing-focused approach, including increased diversion and housing transition planning; and
- connecting clients with the resources necessary to pursue health and recovery by aligning shelters with a recovery-oriented system of care.

This outcome-oriented approach will be extended to Government of Alberta funding for short-term and long-term supportive housing facilities, along with the development of formal Performance Measurement Framework for homeless shelters.

5. Testing and developing new approaches.

The current trajectory of Alberta’s homelessness challenge suggests there is room to improve upon current approaches to addressing homelessness. In particular, individuals with complex needs access a disproportionately larger amount of government-funded services, yet do not always realize benefits and intended outcomes of those services.

In a spirit of innovation and continuous improvement, Alberta Community and Social Services is working with its partners and stakeholders to explore and test novel approaches to achieving better outcomes for individuals with complex needs who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The ministry is also examining how changes on the front lines could help improve outcomes and community responses with respect to enhancing safety for clients, staff, community members and businesses. As a concrete example, in Edmonton, Hope Mission reassigned staff to provide outreach supports to encampments in the Chinatown area. These efforts enabled Hope Mission staff to engage individuals experiencing homelessness and refer them to needed services, including shelter and housing options.

The development of new and promising practices will inform how the Government of Alberta can work with municipalities, CBOs and other partners to enhance community responses to homelessness and better coordinate services to more effectively assist those with complex needs.

Key Actions for an Enhanced Response

In the near term, the Government of Alberta will take a number of key actions to enhance the effectiveness of community responses to homelessness.

Action 1

Allocate funding to ensure there are sufficient shelter spaces available, where possible, to address increased demands during the winter, with a focus on communities having the most urgent needs.

The upheaval from COVID-19, changes in Alberta’s economy, inflationary pressures on the costs of living and other factors have contributed to increased demands for shelter. Since June 2021, occupancy in Alberta’s shelter system has risen by 18 per cent.

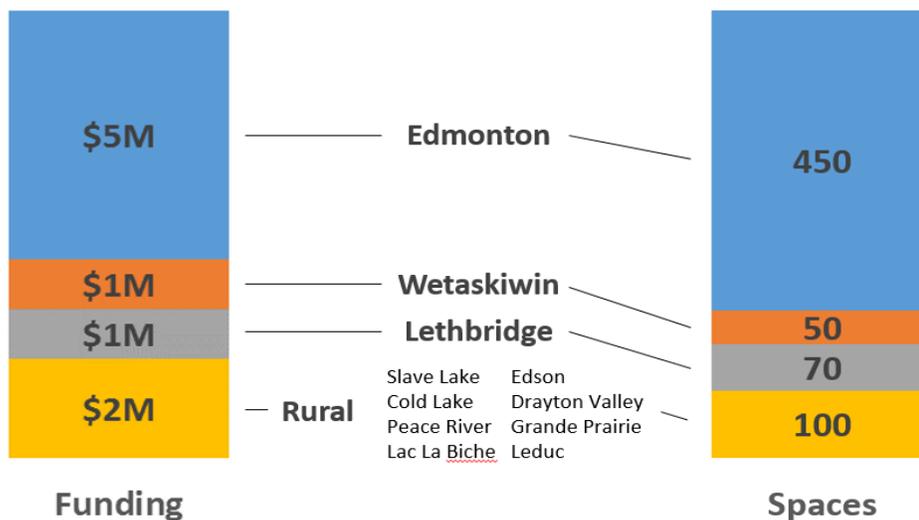
Expanding shelter space in communities with urgent need can help reduce the creation of sizeable encampments, which are neither safe nor sustainable alternatives for individuals experiencing homelessness. This in turn helps reduce social disorder and supports better safety and security for clients, shelter staff, and local businesses and residents.

In tandem with the shift to housing-focused approaches in shelters, having sufficient shelter spaces will also enable more clients to access supports in shelter that can help them achieve stable housing.

The Government of Alberta will invest \$9 million during 2022-2023 to ensure there are sufficient shelter spaces available, driven by the most urgent needs. This includes:

- **\$5 million to create up to 450 additional shelter spaces in Edmonton**, bringing emergency spaces in that city to over 1000. Edmonton currently does not have enough shelter spaces to accommodate those experiencing homelessness, and analysis indicates nightly occupancy demand during winter 2021/2022 had increased from the year before. This builds on current investments of \$11 million to support 627 shelter spaces and up to 310 transitional housing spaces in Edmonton
- **\$1 million to create up to 50 new shelter spaces in Wetaskiwin**, which will help address local needs and fill recently created gaps. Prior to its closure in May 2022, a temporary overnight 20-bed shelter operated by The Mustard Seed served 249 unique individuals, most of whom had complex needs and 70 per cent of whom identified as Indigenous. The creation of new shelter spaces will enable the community to serve individuals in need, helping reduce incidents such as encampments, petty crime, open drug use and growth in encampments.
- **\$1 million to create up to 70 additional spaces in Lethbridge**, where those experiencing homelessness include a large number of individuals with highly complex needs and a high prevalence of multiple substance use. High rates of opioid use, social disorder, drug-related behaviour and petty crime and drug-related litter are challenging the city. Per-capita emergency room visits related to substance use are almost 50 per cent higher than the rest of Alberta.
- **\$2 million to create up to 100 shelter spaces in rural communities**. The urgent unmet need for shelter spaces in rural communities was highlighted during COVID-19 when numerous communities requested ad hoc funding to provide daytime and nighttime spaces for individuals experiencing homelessness. Communities such as Slave Lake, Cold Lake, Peace River, Lac La Biche, Edson, Drayton Valley, Grande Prairie and Leduc require provincial support to offer basic support and services to individuals and the need is particularly dire in winter.

Action 1 – Winter Shelter Space Funding



Action 2

Expand shelters to provide services 24/7 (where it is needed).

Currently, some shelters are only open during the overnight hours. This means that clients must find other places to go during the day, which can often result in outdoor congregations around the shelter facility, local businesses, or encampments. Of the

shelters currently receiving operational funding from Alberta Community and Social Services, four do not currently operate on a 24/7 basis:

- Hope Mission (Edmonton)
- Salvation Army – Wagner Centre (Calgary)
- Lloydminster Men’s Shelter
- Mustard Seed Red Deer

The Government of Alberta will invest \$4.5 million during 2022-2023 to fund shelters for 24/7 operations. Providing funding to support 24/7 operations is consistent with the strategic direction to bring about housing-focused approaches in shelters. By being operational on a 24/7 basis, shelters will be able to provide supports to those experiencing homelessness more accessibly. This includes basic services, such as food and day sleeping arrangements, and supports that help clients move off the streets and achieve stable housing.

Shelter services that are 24/7 will also provide daytime options for those experiencing homelessness, helping reduce growth in encampments and related challenges such as open drug use, social disorder and crime. Shelters receiving funding for 24/7 services will be required to adhere to service expectations established by Alberta Community and Social Services.

Action 3

Expand the role of shelters by piloting the Service Hub Model.

As part of the shift to housing-focused and recovery-oriented approaches in shelter, the Government of Alberta will pilot a Service Hub Model in select shelters in Edmonton and Calgary. These pilots will form the foundation for re-envisioning the role of shelters as part of a coordinated community response to homelessness in Alberta.

Having shelters function as Service Hubs will provide more direct connections for individuals experiencing homelessness to other resources, with a focus on housing, recovery and other social services. As Service Hubs, shelters would provide a mix of accommodation, on-site services and facilitate access to:

- recovery-oriented services, including harm reduction, detox, treatment and stabilization;
- appropriate housing options through housing-focused shelter services;
- cultural supports, emergency financial supports, government identity cards and other needed services; and
- primary health services (e.g., wound care, medical assessments, injury and illness treatment, medication management, addiction supports).

The concept of the Service Hub Model builds on the service delivery innovations and improvements that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, including low-barrier access, a focus on housing and diversion, and 24/7 services and partnerships with health providers.

The Government of Alberta will invest \$2.5 million during 2022-2023 to explore and test the Service Hub Model in two pilots in Calgary and Edmonton. These will be six-month pilot projects that commence in fall 2022. Alberta Community and Social Services will evaluate outcomes from the pilots and use the learnings to inform implementation of the Service Hub Model in other communities.

Action 4

Address the funding differential between the Community Based Organizations in Calgary (Calgary Homeless Foundation) and Edmonton (Homeward Trust Edmonton).

Each year, Alberta Community and Social Services distributes funding to Community Based Organizations in Alberta’s seven major cities. In 2022-2023, \$89.6 million will be provided to the CBOs in Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and Red Deer. CBOs distribute funding to local community agencies, for programs designed to move people out of homelessness into housing with supports. Approximately 60 per cent of funding is allocated to housing with supports, including permanent supportive housing, intensive case management and rapid and interim re-housing.

For over a decade, Calgary has been provided with more funding than Edmonton, driven in part by Calgary’s historically higher levels of homelessness and the earlier availability of buildings for supportive housing programs in Calgary. More recently, Edmonton has received capital funding from the federal government to build and renovate supportive housing units but has not received a commensurate increase in funding to provide the necessary supports in the newly available units. Edmonton’s

recent trends in unsheltered homelessness and social disorder also drive a need to address the funding differential between the two cities that has been present.

The Government of Alberta will invest \$12 million in 2022-2023 to balance funding levels between Calgary and Edmonton. This will address discrepancies, better align funding to local needs, and provide support for federally funded supportive housing buildings in Edmonton.

Action 5
Develop a data-driven and outcome-oriented funding model for shelters and CBOs.

As the province shifts to housing-focused shelters and the demand for housing linked with supports increases in communities, there is opportunity to modernize the Government of Alberta’s funding model for homeless-serving agencies. A new provincial funding model for shelters and CBOs will permit greater and more objective insight into the efficiency and effectiveness of local responses to homelessness. This will offer better insight into local needs and cost drivers, enabling more consistent funding decisions that can translate into better outcomes for individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

This work will be completed within the Government of Alberta’s existing budget. Over the coming months, Alberta Community and Social Services will review and modernize the funding model for shelters and CBOs by way of a third-party vendor. The modernized funding model will reflect fixed, variable and environmental cost drivers and permit the alignment of funding with specific services and measurable outcomes.

Collaborating for Greater Impact

Meaningful action on homelessness requires collaboration at the provincial and community levels. Across the Government of Alberta, numerous departments are undertaking efforts to complement and supplement those of Alberta Community and Social Services. These initiatives are directly and indirectly contributing to the enhancement of provincial- and community-level systems that play roles in addressing homelessness.

As noted in the table below, many existing and ongoing initiatives will continue to support the *Action Plan on Homelessness*. These will be further supported by a variety of new initiatives that will help prevent and address homelessness, and enhance Alberta’s effectiveness in providing clients with recovery-oriented supports with housing.

Supporting Initiatives Across the Government of Alberta

Culture & Status of Women	
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing \$4.4 million in grants via the Community Initiatives Program to organizations to assist non-profits with core operations and to invest in community projects across the province to address social issues for vulnerable, disadvantaged and at-risk populations. • Creative Partnerships Alberta is supporting the United Way of Calgary and Area to expand social innovation across the province.
Health	
New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key linkage to the actions in the cross-government Recovery-Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Implementation Plan.
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the expansion of mental health services to ensure that every Albertan, especially in rural areas, has access to affordable counselling services. • Partnering with community groups to expand access to mental health and addiction supports for seniors. • Opening more medical detox beds and offering nasal naloxone kits in Edmonton as part of its ongoing work to save lives and increase access to recovery supports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical detox beds: \$2.1 million from the government over three years to George Spady Society (2021-22).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new youth treatment program in Calgary is helping Albertans aged 13 to 18 recover from addiction and mental health challenges. The new six-bed program will provide 50 new annual youth treatment spaces that are fully funded and require no payment from families. • Expanding the Digital Overdose Response System (DORS). The Medicine Hat Police Service will now be able to offer immediate access to addiction treatment upon an individual's arrest in partnership with Alberta's award winning Virtual Opioid Dependency Program (VODP). • Launching RecoveryAccessAlberta.ca, a tool that will make it easier to find and access addiction resources. The Alberta Addiction Service Providers Association has partnered with the government to develop the online tool.
Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doubled its 2019 commitment and is providing more than 8,000 additional publicly funded addiction treatment spaces annually. • Albertans in Edmonton experiencing opioid addiction can now visit their local fire station and immediately connect with the Virtual Opioid Dependency Program to start treatment. This is a first in Canada. • Alberta is the first in Canada to fully cover the cost of the injectable opioid treatment drug Sublocade. • Albertans taken into police custody and experiencing an opioid addiction have the ability to immediately start evidence-based medication treatments voluntarily, such as the Sublocade injection, right in municipal jails. • Funding for Our Collective Journey, a Medicine Hat-based organization that supports individuals in their pursuit of recovery from addiction and mental health challenges. • Recovery coaches deployed across Alberta. Recovery coaches will help people by creating individual recovery plans, helping Albertans experiencing addiction to navigate and integrate back into their communities and build healthy support systems. • Eliminated daily user fees for accessing publicly funded residential addiction treatment (was previously \$40/day) • Alberta is the first province in Canada to require quality standards for supervised consumption services, which will improve community safety, provide higher quality services and increase integration with the health-care system.
Justice & Solicitor General	
Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new drug treatment court in Grande Prairie will help prevent crime while supporting addiction treatment and recovery. One of five new drug treatment courts is established outside of Edmonton and Calgary as part of the Alberta government's four-year investment of up to \$20 million (2019-20) to expand the program. • Models are in place where police work with social service agencies to bring people off the streets safely instead of arresting/criminalizing them (Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership team, HELP unit). These are local partnerships and initiatives. • Correctional Health Services has a Safe Transitions and Discharge process for all patients on opioid agonist therapy which includes in-person meetings and an appointment at an appropriate community service, along with a prescription for bridging medications until appointment. On short-notice, patients are provided with information on how and where to access services, and a short-term supply of medication when safe and appropriate. • In provincial correctional and remand centres, correctional services caseworkers engage in release planning, which can include the identification of housing options, with inmates who are scheduled by the courts to be released. • Alberta is the first Canadian jurisdiction to integrate access to addiction treatment through the Virtual Opioid Dependency Program (VODP) at the Edmonton Remand Centre. Inmates are assessed asynchronously upon intake by VODP, and initiated on Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT), if appropriate, within 24 hours of admission. Virtual OAT services are provided at all other municipal jails in Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Peace River, Fort Saskatchewan, and Red Deer through various clinics and providers. Blood Tribe First Nation and some rural and urban RCMP detachments also utilize VODP for virtual clinics.
Municipal Affairs	
New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify how the province expects municipal governments to utilize bylaws, zoning, policies, funding and other mechanisms in order to achieve alignment with the proposed new model.
Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides significant funding to support local priority projects under the Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) program.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City of Calgary committed \$4.1 million of MSI to affordable housing redevelopment of Rundle Manor, \$2.7 million to the Rosedale Calgary Housing Building, and \$10.0 million to increase affordable housing in Bridgeland, Bridlewood, Mission, Mount Pleasant, and Marda Loop. - Village of Myrnam committed \$268,000 to construct three affordable housing units. - City of Edmonton committed \$15.8 million of their Municipal Stimulus Program funding under the Alberta Restart initiative for affordable housing renewal, rehabilitation, and construction of new units. - Renovation of a Calgary office tower will provide shelter spaces, transitional and affordable housing, and support downtown revitalization. • Municipalities currently have a number of opportunities under existing legislation/regulation to encourage affordable housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cancellation, reduction, refund or deferral of property taxes by council (<i>Municipal Government Act</i>). - Property tax exemptions for certain non-profit organizations (Community Organization Property Tax Exemption Regulation, which provides the criteria for tax exemptions for charitable or benevolent non-profit organizations that provide a benefit to the general public, including temporary supportive accommodation such as women’s shelters, homeless shelters, and transitional supportive housing). - Authority to develop inclusionary housing programs (City Charter Regulations). - The Social and Affordable Housing Accommodations Exemption Regulations provide property tax exemptions for an array of social housing options owned, or formerly owned, by the Alberta Social Housing Corporation.
Seniors & Housing	
New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with CSS to better coordinate grants for support services. This would be in alignment with <i>Stronger Foundations</i> actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action 1.6 In collaboration with partner ministries across government, expand supportive housing for populations transitioning out of homelessness and requiring mental health and addiction support. - Action 2.4 Collaborate with partner ministries to co-ordinate supports and transitions for Albertans as they move through the housing continuum. - Action 2.5 Work with housing operators to enhance support services or co-located services onsite, such as tenant support workers and services informed by awareness and sensitivity to Indigenous and other cultures. • In alignment with <i>Stronger Foundations</i>’ Action 5.4: “Introduce new programs and incentives to grow the supply of affordable housing”. As part of this action, Alberta’s government will explore policy and legislative changes that will provide tax exemptions and relief for more affordable housing projects, including exemption from municipal property taxes and provincial property education taxes. • In alignment with Action 1.6 in <i>Stronger Foundations</i>: “In collaboration with partner ministries across government, expand supportive housing for populations transitioning out of homelessness and requiring mental health and addiction support.” • Pursue federal support to include operating and capital funding for its initiatives and to identify linkages and opportunities of collaboration. • Integrate some units of supportive housing into mixed income housing where feasible, in alignment with <i>Stronger Foundations</i>’ Action 5.1: Create a partnership framework and program tailored to affordable housing. • In alignment with <i>Stronger Foundations</i>’ Action 1.5: “Expand access for Indigenous communities through the Government of Alberta’s Indigenous Housing Capital Program”.
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing \$444 million (\$222 million through the GoA) via the Canada-Alberta Housing Benefit Program to provide rent support to low-income Albertans. • <i>Stronger Foundations Affordable Housing Strategy</i> is a 10-year strategy to improve and expand affordable housing. The goal is to provide affordable housing for an additional 25,000 households to increase the total served to 82,000 (increase of over 40 per cent). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stronger Foundations Operating funding is \$14 million over three years for rent assistance for an extra 3,000 households. - Stronger Foundations Capital Funding is \$118 million over three years. • Alberta supports housing designed, delivered and owned by and for Indigenous peoples. The Indigenous Housing Capital Program offers flexibility and autonomy for Indigenous communities to build affordable housing. Funding to date supports 115 households.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Londonderry housing development provides services, amenities and safe, affordable homes for 240 families in north Edmonton. Alberta provided \$51.1 million of the total project cost of \$87.3 million (2021-22). • Capital Plan 2022 allocates \$281 million over three years to provide 2,300 new and regenerated affordable housing units, and \$85 million over three years to maintain government-owned and supported housing units across Alberta. • Capital Plan 2021 allocates \$238 million over three years to provide 1,800 new and regenerated affordable housing units while maintaining the 26,700-unit provincially owned portfolio and creating more than 1,700 jobs. • Special Needs Housing options are available for people with barriers such as being the victims of family violence, and can include support services for residents.
Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesigned the Rent Supplement Program in 2021. The Rental Assistance Program is estimated to support 7,300 households annually. • A new online tool (Find Housing) is making it easier and faster for Albertans to find affordable housing that meets their personal needs and budget.
Children's Services	
Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government is helping community organizations expand and develop new mental health and suicide prevention supports for youth through the Youth Suicide Prevention Grant Program.

Cross-Ministry	
Ongoing	<p>Health and Justice and Solicitor General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to expand the Edmonton Police Service's Human-centred Engagement and Liaison Partnership (HELP) teams. The HELP teams work closely with local community organizations and focus their efforts on assuring people struggling with mental health and addiction are able to access recovery-oriented health care and social supports. \$600,000 was invested in Edmonton Police HELP program expansion (2021-22). • Continuing the provincial rollout of HealthIM, a digital tool to support police when responding to mental health crisis calls. • Providing \$1.25 million from Civil Society Fund grants to address homelessness. <p>Health/Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction is starting on the new 50-bed recovery community in Lethbridge and a new 75-bed recovery community in Red Deer that will provide long-term holistic residential treatment for Albertans with addiction and mental health challenges. • Government is transforming the McCullough Centre in Gunn from a housing program into a long-term intensive addiction treatment program.
Existing	<p>Various Ministries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$35 million under Critical Workers Benefit distributed during the pandemic.