

# Federal Investments to end Homelessness in Nanaimo: HPS/Reaching Home

*Nanaimo Health and Homeless Task Force*  
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**United Way**  
Central and Northern  
Vancouver Island

# Federal Investments more than HPS/Reaching Home

- ▶ Partners with the provincial government and invests in affordable and social housing through \$ transfers
- ▶ Provides financial assistance through tax credits and exemptions (e.g. the First Time Home Buyer's Tax Credit)
- ▶ Researches the housing market and related topics through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)
- ▶ CMHC provides mortgage loan insurance and loans \$ to municipalities for purpose-built rental units (low interest)
- ▶ And .... 2018 National Housing Strategy - 10-year commitment to reinvest in affordable/social housing/efforts to end homelessness 2019 onwards

# Federal HPS funding 2001-2018

- ▶ Nanaimo proactive in addressing homelessness before many other Island communities - Point in Time counts, City driven community plans etc.
- ▶ Case made for federal Designated funding from Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS). Funding began in 2001
- ▶ Aboriginal funding from HPS was added to Designated funding. Nanaimo receives both on-going (Aboriginal now called Indigenous funding)
- ▶ Community based decision making through local Community Advisory Board (CAB): Nanaimo Action Group on Homelessness morphed into Nanaimo Homeless Coalition
- ▶ Community plans directed federal investments: 2008 City adopted Action Plan to address chronic homelessness. Focus on Housing First which dovetailed with HPS funding directive/investments
- ▶ 2018 Coalition/City adopt/endorse new five-year plan to address homelessness

# HPS Investments 2014 - March 2019

- ▶ Nanaimo Designated investment - \$2,307,702 over five years
- ▶ Nanaimo Aboriginal funding - \$1,021,804 over 5 years

# Programs Funded by HPS 2014-2019

## Nanaimo Aboriginal

- ▶ Tillicum Lelum Young Mom's Program
- ▶ Mid-Island Metis Navigator Program
- ▶ Tillicum Lelum Navigator Program

## Nanaimo Designated

- ▶ Nanaimo Region John Howard - Support Services
- ▶ Nanaimo Region John Howard - Housing First
- ▶ First Unitarian Shelter
- ▶ Housing First Readiness
- ▶ Point in Time Counts
- ▶ Community Coordination
- ▶ Men's Centre Housing Loss Prevention
- ▶ Nanaimo Women's Centre- Turning the Key

# What is Reaching Home?

- ▶ The Government of Canada launched the National Housing Strategy, a 10-year, \$40-billion plan to give more Canadians a place to call home
- ▶ As part of strategy, Government will invest \$2.2 billion over 10 years to tackle homelessness
- ▶ Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is the redesigned federal homelessness program which officially started on April 1, 2019
- ▶ Reaching Home designed to improve access to safe, stable and affordable housing, and to reduce chronic homelessness nationally by 50 percent by 2027-28

# Reaching Home Goals

- ▶ Chronic homelessness is reduced;
- ▶ Homelessness is reduced **overall**, and for **specific populations** (incl. Indigenous Peoples);
- ▶ New **inflows** into homelessness are reduced; and,
- ▶ Returns to homelessness are reduced.

# Reaching Home Funding Streams

- **Designated:** Long-term stable funding to 58 urban communities that face significant issues with homelessness
- **Indigenous:** Culturally appropriate and community-driven
- **Rural and Remote:** Available to all non-designated communities
- **Territorial:** new stream of funding specific to the north



# Reaching Home in British Columbia

## DESIGNATED:

- Prince George
- Kelowna
- Nelson
- Kamloops
- Metro Vancouver
- Victoria
- **Nanaimo**

## INDIGENOUS:

- Prince George
- Prince Rupert
- Kelowna
- Kamloops
- Metro Vancouver
- Victoria
- Duncan
- **Nanaimo**

## RURAL AND REMOTE

# United Way as CE

- ▶ UWCNVI is the Reaching Home 'Community Entity' (CE) managing:
  - ▶ Nanaimo Designated
  - ▶ Nanaimo Indigenous
  - ▶ Duncan Indigenous
- ▶ Community Entities (CEs) are accountable for funds and play a leadership role in the planning and implementation of Coordinated Access
- ▶ CE works closely with local CAB to allocate RH funding
  - ▶ Community Advisory Boards (CAB) are responsible for approving the Community Plan and recommending projects for funding to the CE(s)
- ▶ Active participant on Nanaimo Homelessness Coalition (CAB)

# Reaching Home Funding 2019-2024

Nanaimo Designated - \$3,204,180 over five years

Nanaimo Indigenous - \$1,281,910 over five years\*

## Hallmarks of Reaching Home:

- No Housing First target
- Community plans must have clear outcomes
- Communities have 3 years to introduce a Coordinated Access system to prioritize people who are most in need of assistance and match them to appropriate housing and services.

\* United Way holds five-year Designated contract and a one-year contract for Nanaimo Indigenous. Community consultation will be held fall of 2019 to determine who will be CE for remaining four years.

# Coordinated Access - Timing/Funding

## ➤ Coordinated Access

- Shift toward a coordinated, systems-based and data-driven approach to prevent and reduce homelessness

## ➤ Phased approach

- All Designated Communities under Reaching Home are required to have a Coordinated Access system in place by March 31, 2022

## ➤ Funding available for coordinated access development

- \$60,000 for 2019 with slightly less each year until 2022

# Coordinated Access - What is it?

A **Coordinated Access system** is the process by which individuals and families who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness are:

- ✓ Directed to **access points** to service
- ✓ Supported through **triage and assessment** to access the right resources in a community (i.e. service planning and referrals)
- ✓ Supported to access **specific housing resources** that are managed centrally, if they are eligible and interested in them

# Coordinated Access - Core Components

Implementing Coordinated Access is a significant **change management initiative**.  
It requires **leadership** and a **vision**.

1. Establish a Coordinated Access governance structure
2. Choose desired community-level outcomes
3. Implement HIFIS
4. Design access points to service
5. Develop a triage and assessment process
6. Choose prioritization criteria
7. Develop a vacancy matching and referral process

# Coordinated Access - Example

- ▶ Community-level outcome = Reduce chronic homelessness
- ▶ Vacancy = Supportive housing spot opens up for an older woman
- ▶ Match = Only older women are eligible - they are sorted from the Priority List
- ▶ Prioritize = Only women experiencing chronic homelessness can be prioritized
- ▶ Referral = The woman who was identified as a #1 priority is offered the spot



Determine a match based  
on *eligibility of program*



Clients

Determine priority based on  
*prioritization criteria*



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More Info:

**Employment and Social Development Canada:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness.html>