

HOUSING AND SUPPORTS FOR HOMELESS ALBERTANS

ENDING HOMELESSNESS BY 2019

Housing First

Government's investments in housing capital and support services for homeless Albertans reduces costs in other government-funded areas such as health, corrections, and justice.

In addressing homelessness, the first priority is to help people get off the street into permanent housing. The next priority is to help people deal with the underlying causes of their homelessness so they can become self-sufficient, productive citizens.

Alberta's Housing First approach fulfills both priorities—rapid re-housing and wrap-around supports to help stabilize their housing situation and their lives.



If you want to save the health-care system money, start by giving the homeless a place to live.

— Dr. Jeffrey Turnbull,
President, Canadian Medical Association



Roger's and Leta's story

It can be tough raising a family of four—especially if you are homeless. Just ask Roger and Leta.

They lost their home and were homeless for over four months. Thanks to the Inn from the Cold and the Calgary Homeless Foundation, they were able to find permanent affordable housing.

Government Issued ID Helps Homeless

Albertans who are homeless can now obtain secure government-issued ID cards.

The cards can be a tool to help remove barriers to getting a job, an apartment, a bank account. They can also be a way to open doors to programs and services that help people to get back on their feet and move towards self-sufficiency.

The government ID card that homeless people may choose to carry is the same secure and trusted non-driver ID card that is available to all Albertans.

By the numbers

35

Per cent in reduced cost through Housing First vs. leaving Homeless Albertans on the street.

6

Per cent drop in shelter use in Alberta's 7 major cities.

1,700

The number of homeless Albertans housed with supports in 2009-10.

900

Number of Housing First clients added in the first half of 2010-11.

21

Per cent decrease in Edmonton homeless count.

42

Per cent drop in the Fort McMurray homeless count.

30

Number of shelters in 9 communities – no one is turned away.

940

The number of affordable housing units for homeless Albertans funded in 2009-10.

700

The number of affordable housing units for the homeless backed in 2009-10.