



4

Abbotsford Homelessness Plan

Many Ways to Home

Changing the Face of Our Community,
Our Role, Our Response

Discussion

Research Matters: Read, Listen,
& Watch to Find Out More

Affordable housing costs less than 30% of before-tax income. People are said to be at risk of homelessness if they spend at least 50% of their income on housing. How can people find affordable housing? [\(Preston et al., 2017\)](#)

At a Glance

1. Homelessness: System Approach Benefits
2. Abbotsford Homeless Prevention & Response System (AHPRS)
 - 2.1. Homelessness
 - 2.2. Housing
 - 2.3. Community Integration
3. Abbotsford Action Plan
4. Action Plan: 5 Strategic Directions

Homelessness: System Approach Benefits

- Prevent homelessness by addressing the system that allows it to occur (early intervention)
 - Better coordination amongst services
 - Increased cooperation and shared knowledge across the community and government
 - Increase stability and more community involvement opportunities for the homeless
 - Increase expertise and ability of service providers to assist those with complex needs
 - Improve cooperation and collaboration among service providers
 - Improved client services and access to services
 - Reduced cost of services
 - Reduce service duplication
- [\(Homeless Hub\)](#)



Abbotsford Homeless Prevention & Response System (AHPRS)

Homelessness

Housing

Community Integration

“To create conditions to prevent homelessness and support those who are homeless” [\(City of Abbotsford\)](#)

Learn More: [Abbotsford Homelessness Prevention & Response System](#), [Exploring Effective Systems Responses to Homelessness](#)

Homelessness

1. Homeless Action Advisory Committee
 - 1.1. Overseeing the implementation of the Homelessness Action Plan
 - 1.2. Assist in identification and prioritization of homelessness social needs
 - 1.3. Supporting, promoting, and undertaking initiatives to address homelessness
 - 1.4. Providing a forum to engage stakeholders
 - 1.5. Exploring opportunities for funding and other partnerships
 - 1.6. Considering any other related matter
2. Coordinated Intake and Referral System
 - 2.1. Prevention and diversion from homelessness
 - 2.2. Accommodation and support to access housing and services
 - 2.3. Emergency response

[\(City of Abbotsford\)](#)

Housing

1. Supported Housing in Abbotsford
 - 1.1. Provides a range of on site skills, non-clinical supports, and connections to health care services
2. Housing With Abbotsford Rental Connect (HARC)
 - 2.1. Rental housing in the private market through wrap around supports for tenants and property
 - 2.2. Tenant management services for owners and managers
3. Affordable Housing Strategy - Plan200K
 - 3.1. Determine the current and future housing demands and needs
 - 3.2. Aid to the city in decision making and partnerships
 - 3.3. Important to keep updated
 - 3.4. Support the vision: all Abbotsford residents live in safe, stable, appropriate housing that is affordable, and the policies will support developing market and non-market housing options

[\(City of Abbotsford\)](#)

Community Integration

1. Community of Integrated Practice

- 1.1. To support housing, social services, and community integration
- 1.2. Education, awareness and skills training, networking and dialogue
- 1.3. Ongoing capacity building through events and initiatives
- 1.4. Resource repository
- 1.5. Virtual Platform
- 1.6. Curriculum and professional development credits in conjunction with the University of the Fraser Valley

2. Abbotsford Stories Project

- 2.1. Set of videos to increase community awareness
- 2.2. [Coordinated Intake and Referral Program \[Youtube\]](#)
- 2.3. [AHPRS - Roadmap to Success \[Youtube\]](#)
- 2.4. Reducing Stigma and Increasing Awareness (*coming soon!*)
- 2.5. [Capturing Community Stories - Laina & Mantis \[Youtube\]](#)
- 2.6. Business Tools and Resources (*coming soon!*)

[\(City of Abbotsford\)](#)

Abbotsford Action Plan

While the importance of emergency supports in place for people who have become homeless is understood, the focus of this plan is to also create conditions that prevent homelessness and quickly support those who have become homeless to again have a home

[\(Council's Task Force on Homelessness, 2014\)](#)

Learn More: [Abbotsford Action Plan \[PDF\]](#), [Homelessness Road Map Workshop - May 18th 2016](#)



Action Plan: 5 Strategic Directions

1. Facilitate housing first, but not housing only
2. Advocate for housing & wrap-around support
3. Initiate a prevention program
4. Create a culture of inclusiveness & respect
5. Foster collaboration between agencies, community & government

[\(Council's Task Force on Homelessness, 2014\)](#)

Resources

City of Abbotsford (n.d.). *Abbotsford homelessness prevention & response system*. Retrieved from https://www.abbotsford.ca/community/housing_and_homelessness.htm

Council's Task Force on Homelessness. (2014). *Homeless action plan*. Retrieved from https://www.abbotsford.ca/community/housing_and_homelessness/Homelessness_Action_Plan.htm

Homeless Hub. (n.d.). *Benefits of a systems approach to homelessness*. Retrieved from <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/why-do/benefits-systems-approach-homelessness>

Preston, V., Murdie, R., Wedlock, J., Agrawal, S., Anucha, U., D'addario, S., Kwak, M. J., Logan, J., & Murnaghan, A. M. (2009). Immigrants and homelessness— at risk in Canada's outer suburbs. *Canadian Geographer*, 53(3), 288-304. doi:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2009.00264.x

A Special Thanks to

Dr. Cherie Enns, Dena Kae Beno,
Hayley Katan and Sara Marazzi