Homelessness Partnering Strategy Community Plan 2014–2019

Community: Kelowna

Region: British Columbia

The plan has been approved by Canada for implementation.

As this Designated Community's allocation is over \$200,000, it is required to commit at least 40% of its HPS allocation towards a Housing First approach starting April 1, 2016.

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Current Situation: Establishing your Baseline Data

Data

Please report on your current situation based on the following indicators. All CABs should review their progress annually against these indicators. This review will form part of the annual update. Note: Although this data is not required at this time, data for 2013 will be required as part of the first annual update.

 Number of unique individuals who used an emergency homeless shelter in the twelve month period between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 	1260
 Number of shelter users who were chronically homeless in 2012 	20
 Number of shelter users who were episodically homelessness in 2012 	86
4. Number of homeless veterans who used an emergency homeless shelter in 2012.	
5. Estimated number of homeless veterans who were chronically or episodically homeless in 2012.	
6. Number of homeless individuals identified during the latest point in time count (if available)	447
7. Date count was undertaken	October 3, 2013

Readiness for Implementing Housing First

Please rate your community's readiness to implement Housing First based on the following questions. Each component of the scale has a rating of one to four with four demonstrating full implementation of the HPS HF model. Use this information to decide where to focus your efforts in implementing your HF program. Because implementing Housing First may take some adjustments, communities will have the opportunity to rate progress annually and use the information to update priorities. Note: Responses will only be used by ESDC to understand the selection of the HF priorities and activities.

Criterion	Community's Rating
CORE PRINCIPLES	
Rapid Housing with Supports. Program directly helps participants locate and secure permanent housing as rapidly as possible and assists them with moving-in or re-housing if needed.	-3-: Program supports participants in locating housing within 1-3 months and offers participants who have lost their housing a new unit if they meet readiness requirements.
Housing Choice. Program participants choose the location and other features of their housing.	 -3-: Participants have some choice in location and other features of their housing, including decorating and furnishing their unit.
Separating housing provision from other services. Extent to which program participants are not required to demonstrate housing readiness.	-2-: Participants have access to housing only if they meet many readiness requirements.
Integrated Housing. Extent to which housing tenure is assumed to be permanent housing with no actual or expected time limits, other than those defined under a standard lease or occupancy agreement.	-2-: There are some time limits on housing tenure or the housing is considered transitional.
Tenancy Rights and Responsibilities. Extent to which program participants have legal rights to the unit.	-3-: Participants have a written agreement but it contains special provisions regarding adherence to program rules (e.g., requirements for being in housing at certain times).

Criterion

Reasonable Cost for Housing. Extent to which participants pay a reasonable amount of their income for housing costs and/or program has access to rent supplements or subsidized housing units.

Housing Support. Extent to which program offers services to help participants maintain housing, such as offering assistance with landlord relations and neighborhood orientation.

SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

Service choice. Extent to which program participants choose the type, sequence, and intensity of services such as recovery, medical and other services.

Participant-Driven Program & Services. Extent to which the program and services are participant-driven.

Contact with Participants. Extent to which program maintains regular contact with participants.

Continuous Services. Extent to which program participants are not discharged from services even if they lose housing.

Directly Offers or Brokers Services.Program directly offers or brokers support services to participants, such as recovery, medical and other services.

Selection of Vulnerable Populations. Extent to which program focuses on chronic and/or episodically homeless individuals.

TEAM STRUCTURE/HUMAN RESOURCES Low Participant/Staff Ratio. Extent to which program consistently maintains a low participant/staff ratio.

Community's Rating

- -1-: Participants pay 61% or more of their income for housing costs and program does not have access to rent supplements.
- -2-: Program offers some housing support services initially but no follow-up or ongoing services are available.
- -3-: Participants may have some say in choosing, modifying, or refusing services and supports, but program staff determinations usually prevail.
- -2-: Program offers few opportunities for input on their individual services or more generally on program services.
- -3-: Program meets with participants at least once a month to ensure participants' safety and wellbeing.
- -4-: Participants continue to receive program services even if they lose housing.
- -3-: Program directly offers or brokers most, but not all, of these services directly and brokers remaining services.
- -2-: Program has some method to identify chronic and/or episodically homeless.
- -3-: 21-35 participants per 1 FTE staff.

Community Advisory Board Membership

- 1. Name of the Community Advisory Board: Kelowna Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB-H)
- 2. Number of members in your CAB: 20

Community Advisory Board Membership										
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?					
Benson	Randy	Executive Director - Kelowna's Gospel Mission	- Housing and social housing	Chair	Yes					
Friesen	Maribeth	CEO - Brain Trust Canada	- Other: Rehabilitation	Co-chair	Yes					
Stiles	Ruth	Outreach Urban Health	 Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment 	Member	No					
Bond	Phil	Program Manager- Community Service Learning Program-UBC-O	- Other: Post-Secondary Education	Member	No					
Lees	Peter	Program Director - Karis Support Society	Housing and social housingOther: Addictions	Member	No					
Paice	Avril	Director of Community Investment - United Way of the Central and South Okanagan Similkameen	- Other: Community / Funder	Member	No					
Richmond	Don	Community Pastor - Evangel Church	- Other: Faith	Member	No					
Entwistle	Diane	Operations Director - Okanagan Boys & Girls Clubs	- Youth	Member	No					
Roberts	Louise	City of Kelowna	- Other: Municipal Government	Member	No					
Bowers	Teresa	Parole Officer - Correctional Services Canada	- Other: Federal Government	Member	No					
Wilkinson	Dawn	Community Services Manager - Kelowna Community Resources	- Non-profit - Other: Volunteerism	Member	No					
Findlay	Sheilah	BC Housing	Housing and social housingOther: Provincial Government	Member	No					

		Community Advis	sory Board Membership		
Last Name	First Name	TITLE ORGANIZATION	SECTOR(S)	Role on CAB	Include on Distribution List?
Burgess	Mia	CE Coordinator, Central Okanagan Foundation	- Other: Funder / Community Foundation	Member	Yes
Miller	Cheryl	Grants Manager - Central Okanagan Foundation	- Other: Funder / Community Foundation	Member	Yes
Ackerman	Wayne	Senior Development Officer - Service Canada	- Other: Federal Government	Member	Yes
Talbot	Liz	NOW Canada	- Housing and social housing	Member	No
Flynn	Beth	provincial governemnnt	- Other: Provincial Government	Member	No
Yarshenko	John	Manager-Interior Health Authority	 Healthcare, including mental health and addictions treatment 	Member	No
Martin	Cam	Administration Team Leader - Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society	- Aboriginal	Member	No
Gawliuk	Mike	Director of Service Delivery and Program Innovation - Canadian Mental Health Association	Housing and social housingOther: Mental Health	Member	No

3. Given the requirement to allocate funding to the Housing First approach, which involves both housing and individual supports, are there any sectors or organizations the CAB needs to include and/or engage in the future to more fully represent your community? (for example, Provincial or Territorial representatives responsible for housing and/or mental health, landlord organizations, people with lived experience, police, corrections, health and health promotions (including the Health Authority), income supports, other funders, addictions treatment)

Yes

Please identify the sectors or organizations and describe how they will be engaged.

Missing from our CAB is specific representation related to the following sectors:

- landlord/developer representation,
- police,
- addictions treatment (community-based?),
- Ministry of Social Development (income supports),
- persons with lived homelessness experience.

However, most sectors/stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute indirectly by participating in other community committees (i.e., Partners In Community Collaboration – PICC; Partners for a Healthy Downtown – PHD) who work closely together to serve the homeless population. Community organizations and stakeholders are activity sought out by the CAB-H for input for planning purposes. Projects such as Point-in-Time counts include broader community stakeholders for the most complete results. Key stakeholders are recruited for CAB-H subcommittees, especially when additional insight is required or those stakeholders have various restrictions for CAB-H membership (i.e., time constraints).

Planning and Reporting

Your Planning Process

1. Stakeholder Engagement

a. Who and how did the CAB consult in your community as you prepared this Community Plan? Please include information about the approach you took and the extent of your consultations.

A two-day Housing First Conference was held to consult stakeholders connected to homelessness initiatives:

- shelters,
- transitional/supportive housing,
- mental health/addictions services,
- youth services,
- local government,
- provincial government (health authority, Ministry of Children and Families, BC Housing),
- Federal government,
- · faith community,
- non-profit, and
- community funders.

Housing First concepts and HPS specific priorities were presented. As well, community stakeholders were invited to participate in an online survey, providing insight into the community's readiness for Housing First as well as services already in place for addressing homelessness.

b. How is the CAB working with the Aboriginal sector and/or local Aboriginal CAB to identify and implement Aboriginal homelessness priorities?

Kelowna's CAB-H includes Aboriginal member representation from the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Centre Society. The Aboriginal CAB-H member provides insight from the Aboriginal community and is consulted on specific funding decisions. The Aboriginal representative will consult with the broader Aboriginal community when necessary. Additional consultation with Aboriginal community members occurs through ongoing engagement with community projects (Point-in-Time counts and other research projects), meetings and community committees (i.e., Partners in Community Collaboration – PICC; Partners for a Healthy Downtown – PHD) who work closely together to serve the homeless population. When needed, CAB-H and/or the CE will meet with Aboriginal organizations, agencies, and other

key stakeholders (i.e. Elders, persons with lived experience, local First Nations governments) to provide opportunities for input and feedback related to the specific needs of the Aboriginal community.

2. Other Related Strategies and Programs

a. In this section, you will identify and describe the federal, provincial, territorial, or local strategies, programs (other than HPS) which fund activities in your community that you will access to support your Housing First and other homelessness effort.

How many have you identified? 26

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan	- Social housing
Canadian Mental Health Association	- Social housing
BC Teen Challenge	- Addictions
Ozanam House	- Addictions
NOW Canada	- Addictions
Karis Support Society	- Addictions
PIERS	- Addictions
Interior Health Authority	- Healthcare
John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan	- Employment
Project Literacy Kelowna Society (ESTEEM)	- Employment
Okanagan Training and Development Council	- Employment
Work BC	- Employment
BC Housing	- Rent supplements

Name of federal, provincial or territorial or local strategies and programs	Focus of strategy or program
Food Bank	- Income supports
Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation	- Income supports
Okanagan Training and Development Council	- Education
School District #23	- Education
Ki Low Na Friendship Centre Society – LINC Program	- Education
City of Kelowna – Social Development Grants	- Social integration
Aboriginal Housing Management Association	- Rent supplements
Canadian Mental Health Association	- Mental health
Interior Health Authority	- Mental health
The Bridge Youth & Family Services Society	- Addictions
Ki Low Na Friendship Centre Society	- Addictions
John Howard Society of the Central and South	- Addictions
Freedoms Door Kelowna	- Addictions

b. Does your Province or Territory have a plan or strategic direction to address homelessness, poverty, housing, or another related issue? Yes

How does your HPS Community Plan complement Provincial or Territorial direction in this area?

Partially aligns

Please explain.

Our HPS Community Plan will partially align with the Provincial direction. The Housing Matters BC report indicates that the overall goal of the Investment in Affordable Housing is to reduce the number of Canadians in housing need

by improving access to affordable housing that is sound, suitable and sustainable through four main areas.

- Increasing the supply of affordable housing, through new construction or conversions and homeownership or rentals;
- Improving housing affordability, through rent supplements, shelter allowances, or homeownership assistance;
- Improving and preserving the quality of affordable housing: renovation of existing affordable housing;
- Fostering safe independent living, including new housing construction, housing modifications and renovations that extend independent living for seniors and persons with disabilities, and victims of family violence.

The HPS CP will complement and align directly with two of the four Provincial goals. The City of Kelowna's Central Green project includes two separate partnerships with not-for-profit organizations to provide low-income and affordable scattered site housing; our HPS CP will actively support clients in accessing the current provincial rental supplement programs as well as other income supports wherever possible. Information retrieved from: http://www.bchousing.org/Media/NR/2014/03/03/11372_1403031422-119#sthash.hMgVoa6k.dpuf

c. The Housing First approach requires access to a range of client supports. How will you engage (or how are you engaging) provincial or territorial programs to facilitate access to provincial/territorial services for Housing First clients? Currently, our community services access client supports through referrals to the Interior Health Authority's Intensive Case Management team as well as other community care and mental health/addiction services based on the client's unique needs. These same community service providers will access rental supplement programs through BC Housing and income supports through the BC Ministry of Social Development. The CAB-H will continue to build relationships at the program management and departmental levels to assist projects in developing more formal agreements with our Provincial partners.

3. Community Contribution

As part of the eligibility for HPS Designated Community funding, each community must be able to demonstrate that it has mobilized funding partners to contribute to its homelessness efforts.

- Your community must show that it can identify \$1 contributing to your homelessness efforts from other sources for every dollar in your Designated Community allocation.
 - o The community contribution can include funding from any partner other than HPS such as: governments (Federal, Provincial/Territorial or Municipal/Regional); public institutions, such as hospitals, schools or universities; aboriginal organizations; private sector organizations; and not-for-profit/charitable sector organizations, such as foundations or the United Way.
 - o If an organization is contributing (financial or in-kind) to more than one activity, you may combine all the amounts received and enter the information once.
- The Community Entity (CE) will be required to report annually on the actual amount received.

You will be asked to provide this information during the annual update. At this time, we need information about your community contribution for 2014-2015.

a. How many funders have you identified? 3

Name of Funder	Type of Funder	Contact I	nformation	Financial Contribution	Non-Financial Contribution	Total Contribution
		Contact Person	(E-mail or Phone Number)	(dollars)	(Estimate in Dollars)	(Dollars)
NOW Canada	Not for profit/Charity	Liz Talbot	liz@nowcanada.ca	588,227	0	588,227

Name of Funder	Type of Funder	Contact I	nformation	Financial Contribution	Non-Financial Contribution	Total Contribution				
		Contact Person	(E-mail or Phone Number)	(dollars)	(Estimate in Dollars)	(Dollars)				
Kelowna Gospel Mission	Not for profit/Charity	Randy Benson	rbenson@kelownagospelmission.ca	1,345,825	0	1,345,825				
Okanagan Boys and Girls Clubs	Not for profit/Charity	Diane Entwistle	dentwistle@boysandgirlsclubs.ca	5,682,208	0	5,682,208				
Total Commu (dollars)	ınity Contribut	ion				\$7,616,260				
HPS Designa (dollars)	HPS Designated Communities Funding Stream allocation									

Reporting

The Community Advisory Board is expected to report to its funder (Employment and Social Development Canada), its stakeholders and the broader community on what it is doing and the progress the community is making in reducing homelessness.

The HPS was renewed with a commitment to using a Housing First approach and demonstrate reductions in homelessness. The collection of data and results will be critical to this change. As part of your community planning process, you will set priorities and select activities. Projects should lead to results that contribute to reductions in homelessness. The HPS has identified specific results that it will be collecting through Results Reporting, but the CAB and CE should also be working together to identify other results they would like to gather.

Your Priorities

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in: 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
To reduce homelessness through a Housing First (HF) approach*	0% DC	0% DC	40% DC	40% DC	40% DC		
To improve the self-	100% DC	100% DC	60% DC	60% DC	60% DC	Connecting clients to income supports	418 people will increase their income or income stability.
sufficiency of homeless individuals and families and those at imminent risk of						Pre-employment suport and bridging to the labour market	142 people will increase their employment stability or will start part-time or full-time employment. 104 people will start a job training program.
homelessness through						Connecting clients to education and supporting success	62 people will start part-time or full-time education.

Priorities	The percentage of your HPS Designated Community (DC) allocation that will be invested in this priority in: 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018					Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in
	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019		2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
individualized services [†]						Housing loss prevention (only for individuals and families at imminent risk of homelessness)	42 people will remain housed at three months after receiving a housing loss prevention intervention.
						Liaise and refer to appropriate resources	The HPS has not asked for targets related to this activity.
To preserve or increase the capacity of facilities used to address the needs of people who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness.	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		
To ensure coordination of resources and leveraging	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		

Priorities	HPS	at will b	ited Con Illocation	nmunit on sted in t	y (DC)	Activities Selected	Targets for 2014-2015 Where a target is set at 0 it could be because: (1) The community will not be implementing the activities in 2014-2015. (2) The activities will lead to outcomes different from the ones identified in the targets.
To improve data collection and use	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC	0% DC		

Notes:

- * The Housing First model includes both housing and access to supports primarily for chronically and episodically homeless individuals. The services provided are offered through an integrated approach and are interdependent. Generally, the approach will be to ensure that Housing First clients have access to all the existing services required.
- [†] These services are offered primarily to individuals who are homeless or imminently at risk that are not part of the Housing First program.

Results

With renewal, the HPS is increasing the focus on achieving results. All projects are expected to contribute to reducing or preventing homelessness and CABs and CEs should be working together to determine how they will measure project success. The HPS has identified a number of indicators it will be using to measure the success of the HPS at reducing and preventing homelessness.

Description of your Priorities

Housing First (HF) Priority

Rationale

Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.

In February 2014 a two day Housing First (HF) conference was held in Kelowna. The conference included presentations, round table discussions and a survey to engage stakeholders and determine community support for addressing homelessness through HF and non-HF activities. A high level of support was demonstrated for HF activities. It was determined that immediately allocating a significant portion of resources to HF would impact required non-HF services. There is support for focusing funds on HF activities that directly benefit clients, while developing partnerships and leveraging opportunities to address non-client serving activities. Kelowna averaged 2.72 out of 4 on the Readiness for Implementing HF scale. Once an initial investment is directed at HF readiness, stakeholders can be provided with the information and support needed by the CE and CAB-H to continue advancing the HF model.

A Call for Proposals (CFP) was run in November, 2014. The applications received under Priority 1 did not meet the criteria necessary to receive Priority 1 funding. As a result, the CAB-H allocated 100% of HPS funding toward Priority 2 projects for 2015-2016. 60% of HPS funding was allocated toward Priority 2 projects for 2016-2017. A separate CFP will be run to allocate the remaining 40% of Priority 1 funds for 2016-2017 projects. In the previous Community Plan, the CAB-H determined that 20% of HPS funds will be allocated to Priority 1 in Year 2, and 40% in years 3 through 5. CAB-H has the flexibility to direct more of the allocation to Priority 1 as the HF model develops. As partnerships develop, there is a potential for more than 40% of the HPS allocation to be directed at HF activities. Any changes to the priority allocation identified in the Community Plan will be reflected in annual Community Plan updates.

What other resources can you leverage to contribute to your HF efforts?

• HF Readiness

As the community is in the early stages of moving to the HF model, confirming resources in addition to the HPS funding at present is difficult. However, the CAB-H has had recent additions to membership with sectors including the City of Kelowna and Interior Health which may offer potential partnering opportunities.

Current HPS services funded with and without HPS funds in Kelowna do include HF activities at present – the CE and CAB-H will continue to work with service providers to develop networks and projects directed at strengthening the HF program in the community.

Client Intake & Assessment

The HF project will connect with local homelessness service providers, police and health etc. to obtain expertise on identifying individuals to approach for intake in the HF program.

Connecting to and Maintaining Permanent Housing

The province of BC has recently revised the Housing Matters – Housing Strategy for BC. With the recent updates released in January 2014 there will be opportunity for leveraging in the form of rent supplements and rental spaces for HF clients.

Accessing Services

There may be potential for the HF project to connect with the Interior Health Authority integrated Case Management team when coordinating access to services for HF clients.

• Data, Tracking & Monitoring

The October 2013 Housing Needs Assessment (homelessness count) involved a high level of volunteerism with partners from the not-for-profit, education, government and private sector contributing. The community partnering opportunities and linkages with organizations that have data analysis expertise, (i.e. - University of British Columbia) will be maintained.

Description of the Housing First (HF) Approach

Please describe your Housing First approach, identify what percentage of your allocation will be used towards furnishing and repairing housing for HF purposes and provide a timeline for HF implementation.

Community consultation activities have indicated a desire to allocate the majority of HF funds to activities that directly serve clients. HF readiness was identified as important, and will receive funding during the initial stages of implementation. Data collection and use was also supported, with a recognition that leveraging financial and in-kind resources can assist in developing this activity. The majority of funds will be directed to client intake, case management and connecting clients to permanent housing.

A point-in-time homelessness count was carried out in October 2013 and is being used for baseline data for HPS 2014-2019. The CAB-H will seek partnerships and

grant funding outside the HPS to conduct counts in Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2018-19.

Applications for the delivery of HF activities including HF Readiness, Client Intake, Case Management, connecting to and maintaining housing and data tracking will be sought through a solicitation process managed by the Community Entity.

There is potential for a single project to deliver all HF activities to maximize value for money through minimizing overhead costs, however, the CAB-H reserves the option to fund more than one project for different activities based on the quality of proposals received.

The HF project will initially be responsible for identifying all related services in the community to develop working relationships. The HF project will work with homelessness service providers and other organizations such as police and health to identify chronic and episodically homelessness individuals. The HF project will begin working with clients that have demonstrated a high use of services such as shelters, health, justice and outreach worker contact. The HF project will offer services including client intake, case management and housing connection.

Applicants will demonstrate in their proposal the human resources compliment required to deliver the required project activities. Speed of service timeliness will need to be defined and adhered to, ensuring rapid transition from client intake placement in permanent housing. The HF project will need to work closely with other community services to establish client transfer protocol and to ensure short term transitional housing options are available for an HF client, should permanent housing not be immediately available. The HF project will provide case management services for clients following placement to ensure continues access to required services, allowing clients to work towards achieving set goals.

The initial HF project start in Fiscal Year 2015-16 and end in Fiscal Year 2016-17, with a second CFP being run for project(s) for Fiscal Years 2017-18 and 2018-19. This will allow flexibility to adjust programming and respond to needed changes as he community implements the HF model.

HF Work Plan April 2015 to March 2017 – ongoing monitoring and review of the HF model will dictate how the model develops for Fiscal Years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

- Identify applicable complimentary community programs and services
- Build relationships with transitional housing providers to secure priority placements
- Build relationships with landlords and identify housing options for clients
- Work with partners including homelessness projects, other service providers, police and health services to identify chronic and episodically homelessness individuals suitable for HF
- Establish HF client intake and case management services
- Begin to contact HF clients with rent supplements and place them in housing with case management supports
- Work with services to get priority placement for HF clients
- HF fully implemented, the first clients are beginning to move on to regular supports

Target Group(s)

Please describe in more detail the group(s) this priority will address.

- Chronically homeless individuals
- Episodically homeless individuals

Individualized Services Priority

Rationale

Why is this a priority for your community? If the priority was identified in another related plan or planning process, please identify it.

Through community engagement activities at the February 2014 Housing First Conference and CAB-H Community Plan development meetings, the importance of maintaining required non-HF services that directly benefit clients has been stressed. HPS 2014-19 projects delivering individualized services outside of HF will focus on serving clients that are homeless or at immanent risk of homelessness.

The Community Progress Indicators document covering calendar year 2012 indicates 1,260 unique individuals accessed shelter services in Kelowna and the Housing Needs Assessment undertaken in October 2013 counted 447 homeless and provisionally accommodated individuals. Current data supports directing funding at providing individual client services to those who are homeless or at impenitent risk.

Community engagement has also shown support to direct funds at client services and focus partnership development and leveraging on activities such a point in time counts. The Community Plan is focused on priorities 1 and 2 with the intention to meet needs which fall under Priorities 3, 4 and 5 through leveraging and partnership development.

Target Group(s)within the homeless and at imminent risk of homelessness populations
Please describe in more detail the group(s) this priority will address.

- General population
- Aboriginal people