

The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing identifies local housing priorities and develops effective community-based solutions to current housing-related challenges. In an on-going effort to build awareness of homelessness issues, the Joint Planning Committee researches and develops sound and reliable information to support better social and community decision-making.

The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund is a key funder of safe, affordable housing and support services for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Our two organizations work with the municipal, provincial and federal governments, the private and not-for-profit sectors to ensure there is safe, affordable and low-cost housing for Edmontonians. Neither organization owns or operates housing units, but we are connected to many community agencies that provide access to housing and support services. By working together, the Joint Planning Committee and Trust Fund are committed to providing leadership, delivering funding, supporting housing initiatives and making a difference in the Edmonton community.

“At the end of my addiction I was in isolation and knew that by returning to my old place it was too easy to fall into loneliness, depression and using again. This house has been invaluable to my recovery. I feel safe and supported.” *Kavir, Safe Harbour Homes*

“You look around at other low-income housing projects and nothing compares to this project. It’s helping us out financially, allowing us to get back on our feet.” *Michael, Umisk Manor*



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Building Opportunities

The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing and the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund are committed to providing leadership, delivering funding, supporting housing initiatives and making a difference in the Edmonton community.



Our Key Initiatives

Housing the Homeless

Since 1999, the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund (Trust Fund) has directly administered over \$54 million which has created more than 1,450 units of low-cost, affordable housing and shelter space. This investment has resulted in over \$145 million of construction activity to support homelessness prevention initiatives in Edmonton. These include emergency, transitional and long-term supportive housing projects. These facilities now house thousands of Edmontonians who otherwise might not have a home.

To ensure accountability, the Trust Fund continues to annually monitor the completed projects it has funded.

Community Collaboration

The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing (Joint Planning) works with knowledgeable and experienced community members who participate in our five standing committees.

We develop the Edmonton Community Plan, which identifies the housing-related needs and priorities of Edmontonians. The plan is utilized by the government and the community to meet the housing and support service priorities.

“My kids know what a home is. We don’t have to worry about what’s going on around us. Living in the city can be scary.”

Amanda, Edmonton Inner City Housing Society – Project 15

Research

Once every two years we conduct a homeless count in Edmonton to raise awareness about homelessness and housing issues.

We conduct research to assess the needs of homeless in Edmonton. The research fund assists the community in addressing the housing challenges and support service needs.



Raising Awareness

Every winter we raise money locally to combat and prevent homelessness in Edmonton by selling toques during the Raising the Roof Toque Campaign.

Every year we host an awards luncheon to recognize the achievements of those working to address affordable housing challenges in Edmonton.

Every winter we work with local media to highlight living conditions of Edmonton’s homeless population, including the working poor.



Supporting the Aboriginal Community

We have distributed over \$3.9 million in funding from the federal government’s Urban Aboriginal Homelessness component to create 111 units of affordable housing for Aboriginals and their families.

We have delivered \$3.7 million in funding from the federal government’s Urban Aboriginal Strategy to support 60 programs designed to improve the quality of life for urban Aboriginal people. A committee of Métis and First Nations people recommend funding projects based on needs identified in the Community Plan.

The Edmonton Aboriginal Committee on Housing focuses on the unique and pressing housing-related needs facing Edmonton’s Aboriginal community. It ensures a strong link is maintained with the Aboriginal community.



“I appreciate everything everybody has done for me. I get so much of what I need right here at Hope Terrace.” Danielle, Hope Terrace

The Winter Emergency Response Plan

We work collaboratively with the community to develop a comprehensive winter emergency response plan for Edmonton’s homeless. Since 1999, the Trust Fund has provided over \$2 million for emergency response initiatives including food, clothing and shelter for our most vulnerable citizens, helping to provide safety and prevent loss of life.

Support Service Funding

In addition to providing funding for housing projects, we fund pilot support service projects in the community. These projects assist the homeless by providing damage deposit funding for low-income renters, funding for outreach workers, and other special programs designed to address homelessness. Since 1999, over \$4 million has been allocated to more than 30 support service projects.

Since 1999, the Trust Fund has provided over \$2 million for emergency response initiatives including food, clothing and shelter.



There’s no place like home

While progress has been made, the need continues to exist for additional affordable housing. Alberta’s booming economy, combined with the constant migration of new individuals and families to Edmonton, means the Joint Planning Committee and Trust Fund and will continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring current and future housing challenges are met.

We will continue to work with government on new programs and continue to build on the strengths of our partners that have given a helping hand to so many needy Edmontonians.

