



COUNCIL POLICY

Policy Title: The City of Calgary Homelessness Strategy

Policy Number: CSPS004

Report Number: CPS2004-55

Approved by: City Council

Effective Date: 2004 September 01

Business Unit: Calgary Neighbourhoods

BACKGROUND

- The Homelessness Strategy is one of ten deliverables specified in the Corporate Affordable Housing Implementation Plan (C2003-44), intended to clarify appropriate roles and responsibilities for the municipality in addressing homelessness.

PURPOSE

- A framework for when and how The City of Calgary will participate in addressing homelessness, and is intended to assist City representatives and all other stakeholders in negotiating partnerships, particularly those which are mobilized quickly to respond to crises or opportunities.
- The City of Calgary cannot ignore its civic and moral responsibility to see that homeless people have *care*. However, the Homelessness Strategy defines parameters for its contributions, so energy is not redirected from its mandates in *prevention* and *cure* except where absolutely necessary.

POLICY

1. Responding to homelessness is a responsibility shared by all three orders of government, with The City's actions facilitated by funds from the other orders of government as well as its own resources.
2. In the context of a homelessness response continuum of *prevention*, *care*, and *cure*, The City should continue its current emphasis on *prevention* in keeping with its FCSS mandate (funding community programs), and on *cure* in keeping with the Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy (increasing the supply of affordable housing). *Care*, defined here as the operation of shelters and related support services, is a Provincial responsibility and should be treated as such. Citizens need to be clearly informed of this Provincial responsibility.



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3. When need for additional shelter space has been documented (i.e. demand for shelter significantly exceeds supply), discussions with the other orders of government may be required to ensure that necessary care of the homeless is available. Where indicated, a formal request should be made to the Province to cover the full cost of such *care*. If Provincial funds for *care* of the homeless are inadequate and increases are not forthcoming,
 - a. The City should be prepared to assist on a temporary basis in ways which align with the Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy:
 - i. Properties (including buildings) deemed surplus to The City's needs may be leased for use as homeless shelters at no or nominal cost
 - ii. Partnership agreements with the organizations that will operate the facilities, identifying the length of the lease (including exit strategy) and other elements (e.g., whether bussing must be included and who will pay for it, whether the lessee will require assistance in securing the necessary land use approvals, etc.), must be established
 - iii. Programming funds for shelters (e.g., staff salaries, food costs, other therapeutic resources) will not be provided by The City unless they can be demonstrated to be *preventive* and FCSS funds are available
 - b. Contributions of City resources should be publicized as The City covering the Province's costs as part of its commitment to "working together to create and sustain a vibrant, healthy, safe and caring community" for *all* Calgarians. Communications should include information about
 - i. the need that prompted The City to take action (e.g., spike in number of homeless, a policy decision to curtail a previously available resource, etc.)
 - ii. The City's many ongoing activities in the *prevention* and *cure* of homelessness
 - iii. Where funds will be drawn from to offset the cost of The City covering this cost on the Province's behalf
4. Budgeting and accounting for known direct expenditures related to *care* of the homeless, such as the contributions of warehouses in use as satellite shelters



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- (as defined by any current partnership agreements), should be reflected as a budget line within Office of Land Servicing and Housing Program 488, consistent with other expenditures related to the Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy. As well, 2% of the Corporate Affordable Housing Reserve (up to a maximum of \$50,000) should be made available to fund unanticipated and emergency costs related to this framework. This fund will not be cumulative and will be used for homeless purposes deemed to be an emergency at the direction of Council.
5. If enhanced replenishment of the Corporate Affordable Housing Reserve is indicated, revenue sources should be explored through the Financing Growth Study. In addition, any funds from the designated budget line not expended should be transferred to this reserve, to enhance the fund's sustainability in accord with a triple bottom line which calls for responsible social outcomes as well as fiscal ones.
 6. Where The City is currently contributing to *care* initiatives, such support should not be withdrawn unless or until The City is satisfied that alternate resources are in place.
 7. This strategy is intended to be a tool for negotiating tri-government agreements for responding to homelessness.
 8. This strategy should be reviewed in three years to assess its effectiveness, with modifications as required presented in a regular Status Report on Homelessness and Affordable Housing.

PROCEDURE

None

AMENDMENTS

Effective 2016 February 01, Community & Neighbourhood Services became Calgary Neighbourhoods.