

COVID-19 Community Affordable Housing Advocacy Plan

About the Plan:

In 2020, the need for affordable housing was highlighted as Canadians were told “home is the safest place” to retreat to as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. In this context, The City formed a committee of more than 40 organizations from across the affordable housing sector with a goal to seek combined federal and provincial capital support of \$583.3M called for in the *COVID-19 Community Affordable Housing Advocacy Plan* (the Plan). The Plan addresses key gaps in Calgary’s housing system, including capital and operational investments for the provision of supportive housing for those exiting homelessness, and is an example of how our advocacy positions have been a platform for community leadership.

- The Plan is a blueprint for delivering housing for 12,000 vulnerable Calgarians through building or securing more than 5,400 new non-profit housing units – creating a more self-sustaining asset base and effectively ending functional homelessness in our city.
- The Plan seeks to leverage already-committed dollars, available surplus product, and the readiness of the non-profit sector to deliver 22-shovel ready affordable housing construction projects upon confirmation of funding.
- The Plan does not request additional funds from The City. Instead, investment from other orders of government was requested to close the gap and deliver at a community scale. Specifically, the Plan calls for a federal investment of just less than 60% with the remaining balance sought from Government of Alberta.
- The Plan was presented and approved by IGA Committee in July 2020. Thus far, \$24.6M in federal funding (via RHI) has been committed to create 176 units and a further \$15M in provincial investment (via the Municipal Stimulus Program) of which \$9.3M will go to the repair and renovation of City-owned and Calgary Housing Company units with the remaining \$5.7M for the redevelopment of Rundle Manor (135 units).
- Work on the Advocacy Plan will continue via shared leadership by The City and community.