

Background and Previous Council Direction

Background

The Calgary Homeless Foundations' Administrative Count Findings from Spring 2021 indicate there were approximately 1,935 Calgarians experiencing homelessness at that time. As identified in the verbal presentations to Community Development Committee and Council in December 2021 and again in recent research conducted by Calgary Homeless Foundation, these individuals are likely to experience system barriers while accessing emergency shelters. During extreme weather events, these barriers can result in severe health impacts for those who do not access emergency shelter.

The most commonly identified barriers include perception of safety in shelters, limits of shelter hours of operation, and access to transportation to get to shelters.

Other issues identified include access to storage for personal belongings, pet care for companion animals, couples' accommodation, or being barred from access.

In addition, COVID-19 and the escalating drug poisoning crisis have dramatically impacted emergency shelter operations, particularly staff availability and capacity.

DATE	REPORT NUMBER	DIRECTION/DESCRIPTION
12/5/2021	EC2021-1671	<p>Supporting Calgarians Experiencing Homelessness Through Cold Weather Events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council direct Administration to allocate up to \$750,000 to the Calgary Homeless Foundation to coordinate a community cold weather response for 2021/22 that enhances existing services and invests in removing barriers from the current system to support Calgarians experiencing homelessness and report back on outcomes of the investment to the Community Development Committee by the end of Q3 2022. 2. Direct Administration to, prior to the setting of a four-year strategic 2023-2026 budget, convene partners including Calgary Homeless Foundation, The City of Calgary’s corporate security, Community Standards and community policing teams, The Government of Alberta, other funders, and both non-profit and peer-to-peer street outreach providers to ensure a collaborative approach to homelessness and cold weather response that identifies and removes barriers from the current system, in alignment with the Calgary Mental Health and Addiction Community Strategy and Action Plan, and report back on these activities and investments to the Community Development Committee by the end of Q3 2022.
5/17/2022	EC2022-0638	<p>Notice of Motion RE: Housing and Affordability Task Force</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Return to Council during the 2023-2026 budget discussions with a workplan and budget request to support the work for a report to Council by 2023 Q3 considering: a) The development of a “Housing and Affordability Task Force,” that would report to Council with advice and policy recommendations relating to increasing, measuring, and managing Housing Affordability and Affordable Housing along the entire housing continuum, including a survey/review of existing programs, policies, and solutions both locally and in other relevant jurisdictions; b) An exploration of models for the creation of a “Housing Security Commission” to work in collaboration with The City, supportive housing providers, non-market housing providers, Calgary Housing Company, attainable homeownership providers, emergency shelters, the provincial and federal governments, to increase equitable outcomes for Calgarians seeking safe, affordable, and supportive housing; and c) Address these considerations as a part of the refreshed Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy.