



**The Foundations for Home Community Development Program**

# Interim Outcomes Evaluation

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2018 April

## Executive Summary

This report provides the interim results of an independent evaluation of the Foundations for Home Community Development Program (the “Home Program”), a component of The City of Calgary’s (The City) Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy (“the Strategy”). The purpose of the Home Program is to create and expand programs that support affordable housing residents to become more self-sufficient and that improve community well-being.

This interim evaluation report considers two key questions:

1. How well is the program aligned with the Corporate Affordable Housing Strategy?
2. How well has the program been performing so far?

While some elements are in their early stages, the program is well aligned with the strategy, and the program has shown promising early results.

### Program Alignment is Clear

Four program modules have been launched. Modules 1 and 2 aim to help residents become more self-sufficient. They offer new learning opportunities for affordable housing residents to gain skills and knowledge related to housing stability and financial literacy.

Modules 3 and 4 are designed to improve community well-being and foster social inclusion. They involve supporting Community Social Workers (CSWs) to facilitate community development activities tailored to the unique needs of five affordable housing sites throughout Calgary. They also encourage residents to lead their own community activities.

### Early Results are Promising

Results from modules 1 and 2 show that participants are increasing their self-sufficiency. Module 1 results indicate that 77% of participants have demonstrated personal growth in areas related to housing stability. Preliminary Module 2 results suggest that most participants have improved their financial competency.

Interviews with Module 3 CSWs and participants strongly suggest that these programs are improving community well-being. Module 4 is too early in its development to evaluate outcomes.

### Partnerships are a Key Strength

A key success factor for this program has been its use of community partners. With 30 partners, the Home Program has leveraged existing resources to meet its goals, without needing to reinvent program service delivery. The innovation is in the selection of partners and programs to achieve Home Program goals. This includes partnerships with Ready to Rent BC, the Financial Empowerment Collaborative, and the Calgary Neighbourhoods business unit.

### The Report

With these well-aligned program modules rolling out between mid-2017 and mid-2018, early outcomes measures of these programs have demonstrated initial successes. Elements of the programs that are in earlier stages of development appear well-positioned to achieve intended results (e.g. Module 4).

The full results of this evaluation are detailed throughout this report. A brief update of some of the key metrics will be provided later in 2018, and a final report updating this report and providing program recommendations will be provided at the end of 2018.