



Emergency Shelter Standards and Operating Requirements

Edmonton

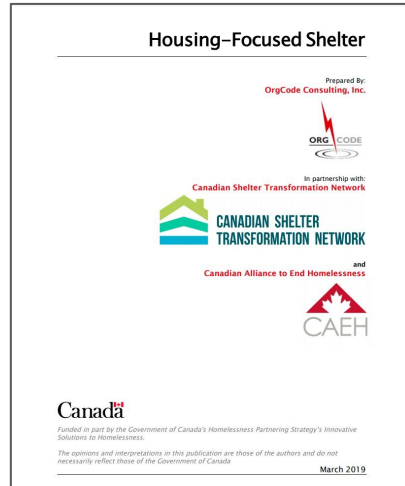
Community and Public Services Committee
August 25, 2021

Edmonton Emergency Shelter Services

- The Government of Alberta funds and regulates emergency shelter operations
- There is capacity in Edmonton emergency shelters
- Many shelters are temporary in nature
- 650+ individuals sleep outside on any given night



Approach to Developing the Standard



- Review of evidence based best practices from other jurisdictions
- Stakeholder engagement: consideration of concerns and opportunities
- Review of regulatory options

What We Heard

30+ engagement sessions between April - July 2021

- Stakeholders included: people with lived experience, shelter operators, service providers, Indigenous organizations, Government of Alberta, AHS, Community Leagues, BIA's.

Key Themes

- Broad philosophical support for standards
- Urgent need for supportive housing
- Ongoing need for integrated mental health / clinical supports
- Indigenous services/operations to address historic trauma
- Shift to 24/7 operations, higher staff:guest ratios, smaller shelter sizes, improved training
- Good Neighbour Plans
- Data sharing and evaluation of collective outcomes

Minimum Emergency Shelter Standards

Operational	Service Delivery	Infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 24/7 operations- 2 metre spacing between beds off the ground- Secure storage options- Enhanced food services- Pet Policy- Good Neighbor Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Transparent and shared banning policies- Intake with referral to housing within 1-3 days of entering shelter- 4 required program areas: Housing & Diversion, Indigenous Supports, Mental Health & Addictions, LGBTQ2S+ & Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Private sleeping accommodations- Barrier free and gender inclusive facilities- Separate areas for sleeping, meals, and programming- Deinstitutionalized design: round walls, natural lighting, enhanced sound-proofing

Requirements	Current: Government of Alberta Shelter Expectations		Proposed: City of Edmonton Minimum Emergency Shelter Standards
Food Service	Must comply with AHS Procedures.	+	Flexible food options available any time of day.
Sleeping Accommodations	Determined by shelter operator.	+	Beds off the ground 2 metres apart if in congregate setting, private or semi-private accommodations preferred.
Operating Hours	Determined by shelter operator.	+	24/7 admission to shelter; separate spaces for sleeping, programming, and meals.
Programs & Supports	Determined by shelter operator.	+	Four program areas that prioritize housing support, mental health and addictions support, and the needs of Indigenous people, LGBTQ2S+, and youth.
Good Neighbor Commitment	At discretion of shelter operator.	+	Operational requirement.
Evaluation	No standardized measurements of success.	+	Includes three sets of outcomes to evaluate accessibility and housing outcomes for guests.

Regulatory Options

- 1) Regulation through Business Licensing
- 2) Issuing Permits to Emergency Shelters

Limitations

- City lacks the authority to mandate entirety of the Standard
- Additional enforcement resources may be required to regulate shelters through either option
- Without additional resources and tools, shelters may be unable to meet licensing or permit requirements

Next Steps

- Engage with shelter operators, Homeward Trust and other stakeholders on the development of educational tools that can assist in adopting the City of Edmonton Standard
- Advocate to the Government of Alberta to adopt the City of Edmonton Standard and regulate requirements through formal funding agreements
- Encourage voluntary compliance from shelter operators through public communications strategy

Thank you.

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