

ENDPOVERTYEDMONTON

Progress Report and Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDATION

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the \$600,000 of 2022 funding for the operational expenditure budget in Social Development, Citizen Services, held in abeyance for EndPovertyEdmonton pursuant to Operating Budget Amendment 2, passed at the November 30/December 1/8/10/14/15/17, 2021, City Council Budget meeting, be released.

Requested Council Action		Decision required	
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle		ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals	
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.		Healthy City	
City Plan Values	BELONG. LIVE. THRIVE. ACCESS.		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	Inclusive and compassionate	Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities	Community safety and well-being
Corporate Business Plan	Transforming the future and Serving Edmontonians		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Poverty Elimination		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">November 15, 2021 EndPovertyEdmonton Evaluation CS00812		

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the November 30, 2021, City Council Budget meeting the following motion passed:

That the operating expenditure budget in Social Development, Citizen Services, be increased by \$2,100,000 on an ongoing basis with funding from the Edmonton Police Services funds held within Financial Strategies, to provide operational funding for EndPovertyEdmonton to support progress in reducing poverty, through a funding agreement in form and content acceptable to the City Manager and that \$600,000 of this funding be held in abeyance subject to reporting to Community and Public Services Committee in third quarter of 2022 prior to the 2023-2026 Budget deliberations on demonstrating progress towards desired outcomes in scaling EndPovertyEdmonton implementation, key activities and outcome strategic planning document and in partnership with other initiatives in community wellbeing and safety, anti-racism and urban wellbeing.

Executive Summary

- This report is to provide an update on progress made by EndPovertyEdmonton since presenting to City Council during 2021 budget deliberations and to confirm the progress achieved by EndPovertyEdmonton since the increase in budget allocation.
- The remaining funding, currently held in abeyance, will be disbursed to United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, as EndPovertyEdmonton's fiscal agent, pending Council's approval.
- This report outlines actions taken by EndPovertyEdmonton to respond to both the City's evaluation recommendations of 2021 and the collective impact evaluation recommendations conducted by a third party.
- The five areas of focus from the City's evaluation include setting clear priorities, strengthening evaluation, reviewing governance structure, strengthening the funding agreement with United Way and to include people with lived experience.

REPORT

Background

In 2016, Edmonton City Council approved funding for the launch of EndPovertyEdmonton to steward the vision of eliminating poverty in a generation using a collective impact approach (City Council report CR_3628 May 24, 2016).

In 2021, Administration conducted an evaluation of the EndPovertyEdmonton initiative. As the five year funding agreement was ending in December 2021, Administration reported the results of this evaluation at the November 15, 2021, Community and Public Services Committee (CS00812). The evaluation identified five recommendations:

1. Setting clear priorities - EndPovertyEdmonton should prioritize a smaller number of systems and policy-related issues that are more commonly believed to have larger impacts on the systemic barriers faced by those experiencing poverty.
2. Strengthen evaluation - EndPovertyEdmonton needs to strengthen its evaluation systems to track and report on progress both as a partner in and as a collective responding to poverty.

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3. Review governance structure - EndPovertyEdmonton, with its partners, needs to review the governance of this community collaborative to ensure clear roles and responsibilities throughout the structure.
4. Strengthen funding agreement with United Way - The funding agreement and the memorandum of understanding between the City, EndPovertyEdmonton and the United Way should be strengthened to create a more effective relationship and help manage risks and responsibilities.
5. Include people with lived experience - EndPovertyEdmonton should explore ways to include people with lived experience in a thoughtful and respectful manner. While working on systemic problems it is important that those experiencing poverty have a voice at the table.

EndPovertyEdmonton acknowledged these areas for improvement and began work to address the specific recommendations. As a result of this evaluation, the group started working on a new strategic plan that would be more focused than the original roadmap, outlining specific actions the group could undertake.

Current Progress

The EndPovertyEdmonton Q3 Progress Update (Attachment 1) provides the progress that has been made on the City's evaluation recommendations and their identified priorities of work.

Highlights include:

1. Setting Clear Priorities: A governance/stewardship review by EndPovertyEdmonton will inform a new strategic plan.
2. Strengthening Evaluation: EndPovertyEdmonton has partnered with Community University Partnership to develop an evaluation framework to demonstrate effectiveness and systems change. To date, the Community University Partnership has begun work on the Indigenization and Inclusive Economy Game Changers (priority areas for system change).

In addition, a third party organization (Three Hive Consulting) was hired to measure EndPovertyEdmonton's advancement on the five collective impact conditions and equity. More details on the evaluation can be found in Attachment 2.

EndPovertyEdmonton will work with community, including the City of Edmonton, to create a dashboard to ensure the community is aware of what is happening in regards to poverty trends and indicators and to help community agencies and others invested in poverty reduction to develop responses to poverty in Edmonton.

The Collective Impact evaluation results align with those from the City's evaluation and EndPovertyEdmonton's work will be prioritized in order to improve in all of these areas

3. Review governance structure: EndPovertyEdmonton is now incorporated as a not for profit organization. A Board of Directors has been established, all employees are now employed by the organization, and a new space has been secured.

A governance planning committee, inclusive of the board of directors and all operating groups within the Game Changer priority areas has also been created to operationalize an EndPovertyEdmonton wide governance discussion.

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4. Strengthen funding agreement with United Way: The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region continues to be the fiscal agent for the group and will remain in this role until January 1, 2023. As part of the current funding agreement the United Way has also agreed to provide mentorship, transitional support, advice and other supports, as required, to help ensure EndPovertyEdmonton is set up to succeed in the coming year with their new Board of Directors. The Chief Executive Officer of the United Way will continue to be a part of the EndPovertyEdmonton Stewardship Round Table, the leadership table for the community collaborative and will continue as a key partner in reducing poverty in Edmonton.
5. Include people with lived experience: A new role has been created, Director of Lived Experience Advocacy, to ensure lived experiences are meaningfully informing and contributing to all the Game Changers EndPovertyEdmonton has identified.

Next Steps

EndPovertyEdmonton will continue to work on areas for improvement from the Collective Impact Report and integrate these actions to respond to the City's recommendations. The United Way, as fiscal agent for EndPovertyEdmonton, is required to provide the applicable reporting as part of the funding agreement.

Administration is supportive of the actions and the ongoing work that EndPovertyEdmonton has undertaken to respond to the City's evaluation as well as their own Collective Impact Evaluation.

Budget/Financial Implications

During the Fall 2021 budget deliberations, Council approved \$2.1 million in operational funding for EndPovertyEdmonton on an ongoing basis, from the Community Safety and Wellbeing funds, of which \$1.5 million was paid to United Way, as fiscal agent for EndPovertyEdmonton, in March 2022. The remaining \$600,000 is held in abeyance within the 2022 approved operating budget and will be released and paid to United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, as fiscal agent for EndPovertyEdmonton, following Council's approval.

COMMUNITY INSIGHT

EndPovertyEdmonton works and serves at the center of community. The following highlight a few areas where community leads and guides the work of EndPovertyEdmonton and is engaged on an ongoing basis:

- EndPovertyEdmonton continues efforts to revitalize and broaden community representation on the Stewardship Round Table and work with community leaders and partners.
- EndPovertyEdmonton continues to advocate for the collection of race/identity-based data in all major systems, supports community conversations and convenes those working to solve these issues together.
- An Indigenous Circle Working Group has been established, having facilitated a Round Dance and ceremonies.
- EndPovertyEdmonton is undertaking community engagement conversations on the state of, and approaches to, affordable housing in Edmonton.

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- Planning is currently underway for community engagement on: a Community Goals Framework, economic reconciliation and the Indigenous Culture and Wellness Center Business Case.

GBA+

In 2022 EndPovertyEdmonton had a third party consultant conduct an evaluation on equity (Attachment 2). Key observations are highlighted below:

- EndPovertyEdmonton has helped to advance equity by grounding their work in data and context, and targeting solutions.
- EndPovertyEdmonton has helped to provide accountability by advocating research and evidence-based information to bigger systems.
- EndPovertyEdmonton has established strong relationships with the Indigenous community and given power to a diversity of voices through the Indigenous Circle.
- EndPovertyEdmonton builds equity leadership and accountability.

Of 12 Equity measures identified, today EndPovertyEdmonton meets/partially meets 12.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Scaling Systems Change: Q3 Progress Update
2. EndPovertyEdmonton Collective Impact Evaluation Final Report