

## (Draft) Foundational Elements for the Updated Affordable Housing Strategy

This document includes the foundational elements which will inform Administration's approach to the Updated Affordable Housing Strategy (UAHS). These are the mission statement, the updated guiding principles, goals and objectives, and the role definitions for the City in the affordable housing ecosystem. The formulation of the foundational elements is informed by the inputs outlined in the illustration below.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE PROCESS



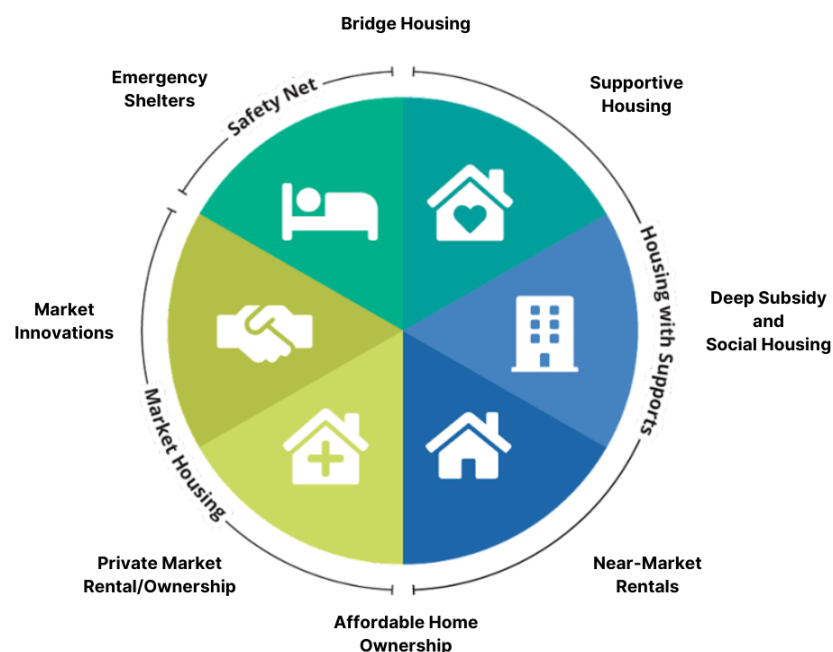
## Affordable housing

The housing ecosystem includes multiple housing types suited for different situations, needs and income levels.

“Affordable housing” is defined as housing that typically requires subsidization to be affordable for its residents. Affordable housing also has rents or payments below average market cost, and is targeted for long-term occupancy by households who earn less than median income for their household size. For the purposes of this strategy, market housing and emergency shelters are excluded from this definition of affordable housing.

## City's Mission

The City of Edmonton leads coordinated action with partners to anticipate, recognize and respond to affordable housing needs. Through our work, we improve the quality of life for individuals and families by increasing, maintaining and supporting safe, adequate and affordable housing in all areas of the city.



### Guiding Principles

These eight guiding principles define general approaches for how the City of Edmonton plans to implement the goals and objectives of the updated Affordable Housing Strategy.

**Fundamental:** Affordable housing is fundamental to human dignity; the physical, economic and social well being of individuals, families and communities.

**Evidence-based:** The voices of lived experience inform our programs and projects along with research and engagement. We make evidence-based decisions and recommendations based on ongoing monitoring and evaluation of local housing needs and context.

**Collaborative:** Housing needs are complex and multi-faceted, and require consistent effort from all levels of government, partners and stakeholders. The City leads and values innovative solutions that require collaboration and working in partnerships.

**Accessible:** The City supports affordable housing that is accessible for all, including those individuals living with a range of disabilities including physical, sensory, developmental and cognitive.

**Intersectional:** The City encourages the design and construction of diverse types of housing to expand affordable housing choices for those in core housing need and who belong to multiple population groups with intersecting identities.

**Sustainable:** The City encourages the development and retrofitting of affordable housing that is aligned with its vision of building an efficient, sustainable and resilient community.

**Livable:** The City promotes compact, mixed use developments within districts that support equitable access to transportation and amenities.

**Reconciliation:** In the spirit of reconciliation the City will collaborate with indigenous communities and organizations to respond to the systemantic racism and discrimination that indigenous people disproportionately face in accessing affordable housing. We will support indigenous affordable housing providers/operators to build capacity.

## Goals & Objectives

The updated goals and objectives build on the progress made in implementing the 2016-2025 strategy. They reflect the lessons learned, such as the need to be agile and adaptable to unforeseen challenges and responding to new and emerging opportunities. The design of the revised goals and refined objectives will ensure the City can respond effectively and efficiently to shifts in Edmonton's affordable housing landscape. Guided by the strategy, the City will employ a range of tools comprised of funding, land, regulations, and policies to meet a wide range of affordable housing needs in all areas of the city.

The three goals of the updated Affordable Housing Strategy are:

- Goal 1: Edmontonians have access to affordable housing in all areas of the city
- Goal 2: Edmontonians have the housing supports they need
- Goal 3: Increased awareness of housing needs and the importance of affordable housing

Each goal is accompanied by multiple objectives, which provide more detail about the City's role in achieving the goals

Goals	Objectives
Goal 1: Edmontonians have access to affordable housing in all areas of the city	1.1 Enable the development of affordable housing
	1.2 Diversify the affordable housing supply
	1.3 Support the sustainability of affordable housing
Goal 2: Edmontonians have the housing supports they need	2.1 Improve programs and services related to homelessness prevention
	2.2 Enable improvements in housing supports and service delivery partnerships
Goal 3: Increased awareness of housing needs and the importance of affordable housing	3.1 Collect and share insights from research and engagement
	3.2 Inform public about housing needs and importance of affordable housing
	3.3 Coordinate with sector partners to identify shared objectives, improve information sharing, and convene to enhance the capacity of the housing ecosystem

### **The City's Roles in Affordable Housing Ecosystem**

There are ten major roles that the City of Edmonton plays in affordable housing

- Plan, research and develop policy
- Acquire and make land and financial resources available
- Assess and communicate Edmontonians' housing needs
- Convene and coordinate
- Establish and enforce regulations
- Develop, deliver, monitor and evaluate programs
- Support homelessness prevention
- Steward City-owned housing assets
- Catalyze affordable housing developments
- Leverage intergovernmental relationships