



Community Services CS01603

Edmonton

Update on Emergency Shelter Situation in Edmonton

Executive Committee

November 23, 2022

Current Situation

- Homeward Trust's By Name List indicates that more than 2,650 Edmontonians are experiencing homelessness
 - 1,250 of those sleeping in emergency shelters or outdoors
- As of November 17, 2022, AHS identified 173 cases of Shigella, 115 of which have required hospitalization
- On November 9 during the last cold snap in Edmonton, a number of challenges emerged:
 - Shelter capacity was at 98%
 - 408 people were escorted from transit stations at closing, following established procedures
 - Individuals were still residing in encampments
- 8,300 encampment-related complaints, 34% increase from last year
 - There is heightened risks of fire hazards, particularly at larger encampment sites

Winter Response to Date

- Government of Alberta is funding an additional 450 shelter spaces for winter 2022/23 and 2023/24
 - raising total number of funded shelter spaces to 1,072
 - ~300 of the 450 spaces have opened, remainder mid-December
- In coordination with AHS, the City of Edmonton has provided additional funding to expand the operation of the temporary washrooms and shower/laundry facilities, in response to the Shigella outbreak
- Extreme weather response, including the ETS Extreme Weather Bus and supports to Al Rashid Mosque
- The City of Edmonton is funding a number of additional sector supports:
 - Bissell Centre - Encampment Housing Workers and the Extension of Bissell Day Services Contract
 - Boyle Street Community Services - Expanded Day Service Capacity/Programming, Expanded Outreach Bus, and Outreach Workers

Shelter Occupancy

- Administration receives regular updates from the Government of Alberta on shelter usage, while supplementing with information directly from shelter operators
- It is important to consider occupancy over time and under different conditions

Night of (2022)	Temperature Low (C)	Shelter Occupancy # and Percent Usage	# Individuals Removed at ETS Lock Up
Nov 20 - 21	-5	781 of 897 spaces (87%)	194
Nov 12 - 13	-10	801 of 827 spaces (96%)	111
Nov 9 - 10	-26	812 of 827 spaces (98%)	408

- During the 202/22 Winter, the City experienced roughly 40 days with temperatures lower than -20
- Time is of the essence in order to provide sufficient time to launch additional shelter sites

Significant Changes Since October

- Low overnight temperatures November 9/10 made winter shelter demand more clear.
 - Numerous, active, high risk encampments reporting critical health and safety concerns.
 - Increasing number of individuals in transit stations during closing procedures or causing challenges with break-in and re-entry throughout the night.
- Increasing Shigella cases and hospitalizations.
- Delay in opening announced shelter spaces due to challenges around staff resources.
- New specifics around the Jasper Place Wellness Centre has allowed better cost analysis.
- Administration finalized budget work determining the actual 2022 surplus available as a funding source.

Additional Winter Shelter Approach

Small Hotel - 209 Spaces

# of Spaces	150 congregate + 59 private rooms = 209 Total Spaces
Operator	Jasper Place Wellness Centre
Stand-Up Timeline	4 weeks
Operating Length	6 months
Total Cost	150 congregate + 59 private rooms / transitional 209 spaces = \$7.5 million

Proposal Overview

Space Overview

- Shelter and transitional spaces are 24/7, low barrier, with enhanced supports
- Congregate shelter spaces are a “registered mat program”
- Ability to move clients from congregate spaces to private transition beds under one roof

Elements Impacting Proposal Costs

- Site will provide a high-level of supports, such as the transitional spaces in hotel rooms and a greater level of on-site supports
- Short operating time frame means sunk costs (such as preparing the site for operation) are not amortized over a long period of time
- Loss of economies of scale
- Operator offering higher wage amounts to attract high-quality staff

Recommendation

1. That Attachment 1 be added to the November 23, 2022, Community Services verbal report CS01603.
2. That Attachment 2 be added to the November 23, 2022, Community Services verbal report CS01603 and the actions within it approved.

That Executive Committee recommend to City Council:

3. That the actions outlined in Attachment 1 of the November 23, 2022, Community Services verbal report CS01603 be approved.

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Project and Subsidy Approval

- That the 2022 operating budget for the Social Development Branch be increased by \$7.5 million on a one-time basis, spent over a multi-year period, in relation to bridge/transition housing and shelter spaces at 15540 Stony Plain Road, with funding from the Financial Stabilization Reserve.
- That a subsidy funding agreement between the City of Edmonton and Jasper Place Wellness Centre, up to a maximum amount of \$7.5 million, as outlined in Attachment 2 be approved, and that the agreement be in a form and content acceptable to the City Manager.

Attachment 2 - Subsidy Funding Agreement General Terms and Conditions

- Outlines the agreement General Terms and Conditions

Questions