

Edmonton Homelessness Response Timeline

This attachment provides a high-level chronology of the evolution of the homelessness response in Edmonton between the mass disinvestment in social housing in the 1980s¹ and onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Information on the evolution of the City's homelessness response as a result of the pandemic is in Attachment 1.

1970 - 1980

- 1970s: City provides land and subsidies to advance the development of social housing in collaboration with funding from other orders of government and housing providers.²
- 1970 - 1974: City develops more than 1,000 units of family housing through the Edmonton Community Housing Organization (now managed by Civiida)³

1980 - 1990

- The federal government begins a mass disinvestment in social housing development, resulting in a rising affordable housing deficit across Canada.⁴
- Late 1980s: A combination of reduced housing stock, provincial policy changes and economic factors result in increased homelessness in Edmonton.

1990 - 2000

- 1990s: City assumes a coordinating function which results in a number of community coalitions and task forces being developed. This included the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH) which represented over 100 partner agencies.
- 1999: Community groups and coalitions work alongside the City to develop the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund (EHTF) in 1999.⁵

¹ [State of Homelessness in Canada](#), 2016. Stephen Gaetz, Erin Dej, Tim Richter, Melanie Redman

² [Affordable Housing Challenges](#), The Experience of the City of Edmonton

³ edmonton.ca/programs_services/housing/affordable-housing-overview

⁴

<https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/march-2017/lessons-from-the-past-on-a-national-housing-strategy/>

⁵ [Affordable Housing Challenges](#), The Experience of the City of Edmonton

- 1999: The federal government begins its involvement in homelessness response efforts through the Federal National Homelessness Initiative. This initiative took a decentralized approach, with emphasis on providing individual communities with the support needed to respond to homelessness, recognizing the fact that homelessness looks different in every community.⁶

2000 - 2016

- 2000: City initiates ongoing annual subsidy agreement to Homeward Trust Foundation as a part of its contribution to Edmonton's homelessness response.
- 2005: City initiates an interdepartmental steering committee to respond to the effects of homelessness on City parkland, including street outreach by Boyle Street Community Services.
- 2006: The federal government renews funding for homelessness initiatives via the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), expanding investment into some capital projects, namely transitional and supportive housing.⁷
- 2007: A significant "tent city" is established in Edmonton and later closed by the Government of Alberta.⁸
- 2008: Edmonton's homeless population peaks at over 3,000 people.⁹
- 2008: Through the merger of the EHTF and the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Homelessness, Homeward Trust Foundation is formed. Homeward Trust is the designated Community Entity, responsible for planning, funding and coordinating housing programs and services to end homelessness in Edmonton.
- 2008: The provincial government publishes a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.¹⁰
- 2009: The Edmonton Committee to End Homelessness, which included representation from City Administration and Council, delivered A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

⁶homelesshub.ca/solutions/national-strategies/canada

⁷ homelesshub.ca/solutions/national-strategies/canada

⁸ cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/tent-city-to-fold-next-month-1.656983

⁹ [Homelessness Over Time Dashboard](#), Homeward Trust.

¹⁰ [A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in Ten Years](#)

- 2006 to 2016: City assumes a funding role for affordable housing development through the distribution of provincial and municipal funds via the Cornerstones program to help build 3,500 units.¹¹

2016 - 2023+

- 2016: Homelessness in Edmonton is reduced by over half since 2008.¹²
- 2016: City creates the Ten Year Affordable Housing Strategy¹³ to support the development of affordable housing across Edmonton.
- 2017: Homeward Trust and the City of Edmonton release A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's Updated Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.¹⁴
- 2017: The Government of Canada launches the National Housing Strategy¹⁵, which commits \$40 billion over ten years to reduce chronic homelessness in half and develop up to 100,000 new housing units and 300,000 repaired or renewed housing units.
- 2019: City launches the Affordable Housing Investment Program¹⁶ to develop 2,500 units of affordable housing over four years.
- 2021: The City of Edmonton formally adopted the City of Edmonton Minimum Emergency Shelter Standards.¹⁷
- 2022: Further strategy and investments into Indigenous-led Shelters, Housing and Programming¹⁸ and an Indigenous Affordable Housing Strategy (CS00433, CS00939, Community and Public Services Committee, June 27, 2022)¹⁹

¹¹

[edmonton.ca/public-files/assets/document?path=PDF/Applicant_Information_Guide.pdf](https://www.edmonton.ca/public-files/assets/document?path=PDF/Applicant_Information_Guide.pdf)

¹² [CBC Article](#)

¹³

[edmonton.ca/public-files/assets/document?path=PDF/CityOfEdmontonAffordableHousingStrategy2016-2025.pdf](https://www.edmonton.ca/public-files/assets/document?path=PDF/CityOfEdmontonAffordableHousingStrategy2016-2025.pdf)

¹⁴ <http://endhomelessnessyeg.ca/>

¹⁵

<https://assets.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/sf/project/placetocallhome/pdfs/canada-national-housing-strategy.pdf?rev=7d7a4713-2f37-4cf0-a13e-68d278867630>

¹⁶

[edmonton.ca/programs_services/funding_grants/affordable-housing-investment-program](https://www.edmonton.ca/programs_services/funding_grants/affordable-housing-investment-program)

¹⁷

<https://pub-edmonton.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=dd8a9bce-4ce2-4fc7-9f4c-c98ba1344038&lang=English&Agenda=Agenda&Item=38&Tab=attachments>

¹⁸

<https://pub-edmonton.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=7c40f0f5-4178-4a8d-bdf8-902cc14005f2&lang=English&Agenda=Agenda&Item=25&Tab=attachments>

¹⁹

<https://pub-edmonton.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=7c40f0f5-4178-4a8d-bdf8-902cc14005f2&lang=English&Agenda=Agenda&Item=27&Tab=attachments>

Attachment 2

- 2022: Through the 2023-2026 City Council Budget Deliberation, further investment into Affordable Housing and Homelessness prevention was confirmed:
 - Capital Budget²⁰: \$22,925,000 in 2023 for planning, design and delivery of Affordable Housing 2023-2026.
 - Operating Budget²¹: Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention service package funded for \$18.7 million between 2023-2036 bringing total annual base funding to \$24.7 million for this timeframe.
 - This service package will allow the creation of a new homelessness prevention program, fund recommendations of the Indigenous Housing Strategy and will provide the opportunity to continue AHIP Grants.
 - Affordable Housing Tax Grant: Funded at \$6 million in 2023 and \$6.5 million in 2024 ongoing.
- 2023: Rapid Housing Initiative Investment Plan - Round 3 of Rapid Housing Initiative - Administration is currently confirming funding for the third round of this Federal funding opportunity.

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<https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/2023-2026CapitalBudget.pdf?cb=1682365321>

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<https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/2023-2026OperatingBudget.pdf?cb=1682365321>