

Municipal and Provincial Priority Alignment

Municipal governments are often first responders to issues that emerge when existing systems of care are overwhelmed. They are therefore well positioned to collaborate with other orders of government by sharing local data and context and convening community based organizations and relevant stakeholders to address issues and attract investment in locally-led solutions.

Currently, the Government of Alberta articulates its role and approach to increasing affordable housing supply and responding to homelessness through its 10-year affordable housing strategy, Stronger Foundations (2021)¹ and its Action Plan on Homelessness (2022)². Under the Strategy, capital funds are made available for affordable housing through the Indigenous Housing Capital Program and Affordable Housing Partnership Program. Under the Action Plan, a number of initiatives are either complete or in implementation, which includes increasing Edmonton's emergency shelter supply and the diversity of shelter providers and implementing a hub model that integrates more services in emergency shelters to help orient individuals to permanent housing and care solutions.

The Government of Alberta's vision of a recovery-oriented system of care is guided by the recommendations put forward by the Alberta Mental Health and Addictions Advisory Council in 2022 "Toward an Alberta Model of Wellness"³. The overarching goal of Alberta's recovery-oriented system of care is to convert disparate supports and services into a coordinated network providing a continuum of supports (prevention, early intervention, treatment and recovery) for people at risk of or suffering from addiction and mental health challenges. In addition, each year the Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction releases a Business Plan outlining priorities and associated investments. In the 2025 business plan⁴ key initiatives include Recovery Alberta (previously Alberta Health Services) supporting the delivery of mental health and addictions services, and the Centre of Recovery Excellence to evaluate and research recovery-oriented care and inform the future delivery of mental health and addiction services, the expansion of treatment spaces, including a new compassionate intervention

¹<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/d17f3af6-fa5a-4cb0-b36e-248823cddff1/resource/d11b4795-763a-4221-b6f9-2f5769df50a5/download/sh-stronger-foundations-albertas-10-year-strategy-affordable-housing-2021.pdf>

²<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/5601187b-7dfc-45ab-8238-8f4c0be3c634/resource/0e21de0d-1248-4594-8268-0d96860723a0/download/css-action-plan-on-homelessness.pdf>

³<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/bf379eb9-bd13-42b3-ac5c-2220e9e72a97/resource/7a0338fb-ab4c-4681-beea-27fdbcb20d56e/download/health-toward-an-alberta-model-of-wellness-2022.pdf>

⁴<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/f8285c1c-7cbf-410e-a07d-beaae3169cc6/resource/abad5e50-ceaa-4524-9250-0e3274247d34/download/mha-business-plan-2025-28.pdf>

centre in Edmonton, and delivering community-based mental health and addiction programs and services focused on children and youth.

The City of Edmonton is taking action to contribute to increasing affordable housing supply and improving community responses to homelessness. As detailed in the Council approved 2023 - 2026 Affordable Housing Strategy⁵ and corresponding Homelessness and Housing Services Plan,⁶ the City works collaboratively with other orders of government and community-based organizations to advance shared priorities that reduce homelessness and core housing need in the city. Mental health services, addictions and recovery services, emergency shelters and housing are critical components of a continuum of care for vulnerable Edmontonians who may require access to parts or all of the continuum to become housed. While the City does not deliver emergency shelter services, mental health supports or addictions treatment programs for houseless Edmontonians directly, the City is responsible for the management of public spaces and often seeks to respond to people experiencing homelessness with compassion and awareness of available services for vulnerable people so that individuals can be referred to the support they need. To do this work effectively, Administration works closely with the Government of Alberta to align municipal and provincial investment in a number of ways, including:

- articulating the needs of vulnerable Edmontonians based on local data;
- convening community partners to inform and coordinate locally-led solutions;
- preparing and supporting funding applications that are either City-led or community-led to the provincial government for health and housing supports; and
- highlighting municipal investment priorities through intergovernmental channels.

Ultimately, the City remains committed to increasing the overall supply of affordable housing as a limited funding partner, given sufficient housing supply is a condition of ending homelessness and municipal investment is necessary to unlock funding from other orders of government for housing development.

⁵<https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/assets/PDF/AffordableHousingStrategy2023-26.pdf>

⁶<https://www.edmonton.ca/sites/default/files/public-files/assets/PDF/Homelessness-Housing-Services-Plan.pdf>