

Summary of Municipal and Provincial Investments in Homelessness Related Services

City of Edmonton

City Administration has completed a cost analysis of City spending on homelessness, shelters, addictions and mental health related spending, broken out in more detail below. 2024 costs are expected to total \$43,267,000.

To develop high level projections, City Administration analyzed budget lines for various services and initiatives that fall under the categories as outlined above and, where applicable, included projected overages and/or spending where no budget has been allocated to determine projected spending for 2024. Where the Government of Alberta has provided grant funding for homelessness initiatives to offset City spending, that spending has been excluded. These numbers are subject to change based on a number of factors that influence service levels. Examples of initiatives that may go over budget include: dispatch and deployment to overdose events by City staff, and the extreme weather response, which activates additional resources at weather thresholds that pose additional health-safety risks for vulnerable people.

Homelessness Funding	City Funding (\$000s)
Program Description	2024 Projected Spending
Bissell Centre - Operating Funding	\$500
Community Outreach Transit Teams	\$700
Edmonton Public Library - Social Workers, Overdose Response	\$309
Edmonton Transit Service - Public Washrooms, Enhanced Cleaning	\$2,866 ¹

¹ Inclusive of City spending only. Alberta Transit Cleanup Grant (\$500,000) excluded from Projected Spending.

Attachment 2

Encampment Response - inclusive of: Peace Officers, Municipal Enforcement Officers, Fire Rescue Services response, Edmonton Police Services - encampment enforcement and HELP teams, and year-end projections for Emergency Operations Centre activation.*	\$9,981 ²
Encampment & Waste Clean-Up	\$2,617 ³
Extreme Weather (including Edmonton Transit Service Winter Weather Shuttle, Transit Peace Officers, Fire Hydrant Water Stations)*	\$1,500
Healthy Streets Operation Centre (Inclusive of EPS/City)**	\$6,485 ^{4 5}
Homeward Trust Subsidy Agreement	\$1,238
Providing Accessible Transit Here Program - free monthly transit passes distributed by social agencies	\$116
Problem Properties - FTE and Rehousing Services Program Funding	\$425
Public Washrooms for Shigella (Hygiene Hub)**	\$1,039
REACH Edmonton - 24/7 Crisis Diversion	\$4,517
Tenant Supports, Bissell Centre - Community Bridge Program (Homelessness Prevention)	\$530
Unsheltered Homelessness - Outreach Services Funding	\$1,450
Total Homelessness Funding	\$34,673

² Inclusive of City spending only. Government of Alberta Grant funding received for EPS High Risk Encampment Teams (\$410,524) and HELP teams (\$3,796,440) excluded from Projected Spending.

³ Inclusive of City spending only. Government of Alberta one time grant funding of \$4.5M excluded from Projected Spending.

⁴ Increase between 2023 and 2024 of \$5.3 million is primarily due to increased EPS budget for staffing and equipment costs.

⁵ Costs are inclusive of HSOC spending related to homelessness and do not account for the entire HSOC initiative budget.

* Indicates projected budget overages.

** Temporary funding that will not be renewed in 2025.

Shelter Funding	City Funding (\$000s)
Program Description	2024 Projected Spending
Bridge Housing Funding	\$60
Day Services Funding**	\$1,617
Total Shelter Funding	\$1,677

** Temporary funding that will not be renewed in 2025.

Addictions Funding	City Funding (\$000s)
Program Description	2024 Projected Spending
Dispatch and deployment to overdose and poisoning events (including administration of naloxone)	\$4,380
Drug Poisoning Deployment Dashboard Analyst	\$77
Municipal Drug Response Package to enhance coordination and execute the Drug Poisoning Reduction and Action Plan	\$411
Overdose Response and Prevention Outreach Services**	\$749
Total Addictions Funding	\$5,617

** Temporary funding that will not be renewed in 2025.

Mental Health Funding	City Funding (\$000s)
Program Description	2024 Projected Spending
Community Driven Specialized Supports and Priority Population Initiatives	\$560
Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Public Education and Training	\$103
Strategy Development for Community Mental Health (Engagement, Communications, Evaluation, Governance, Investment Framework)	\$457
Strategy for Community Mental Health - CMHA Subsidy Agreement	\$180
Total Mental Health Funding	\$1,300

Affordable Housing Investment

The City’s investment of \$254 million since 2019 in affordable housing has leveraged a total of \$891 million from other orders of government and funding sources. The City is projecting that between 2023 and 2026, the Government of Alberta will have contributed \$406 million through the Alberta Housing Partnership Program and \$75 million through the Indigenous Housing Capital Program. This work has yielded 5,553 units of affordable housing supported in the last five years. The 2023-2026 Affordable Housing Investment Plan targets 2,700 units of affordable housing, and the City anticipates that this target will be surpassed by the end of 2024 with a total of 2,879 units.

Affordable Housing Funding	City Funding (\$000s)
Program Description	2023-2024 Actuals**
City Funding Contribution*	\$120,516
City Land Value Contribution*	\$32,246
Affordable Housing Tax Grant Program***	\$3,927
Operating Contributions - GEF Seniors Housing	\$10,019
Operating Contributions - Social Housing Operating Deficit (CIVIDA)	\$975
Housing Action Team Affordable Housing Task Force	\$400
Total Affordable Housing Funding	\$168,083

*Includes committed funding where payment will be made as construction is completed.

** Includes projected 2024 actuals.

*** As a result of the Government of Alberta's newly implemented Affordable Housing Tax Exemption Program, this funding may be reduced but will be replaced with a larger tax exemption that will increase taxes for remaining Edmonton taxpayers.

Housing Accelerator Fund

Not included in the table above is funding the City of Edmonton secured through the Federal Government's Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). In 2024, the City received \$175 million in one-time funding from CMHC under HAF. This funding will enable the implementation of 11 initiatives to accelerate the supply of both market and affordable housing in Edmonton over the next three years. The HAF Action Plan will help the City deliver more than 5,200 new homes over-and-above what would typically be expected, including 797 units of affordable housing. A total of 35,000 new homes will be permitted across Edmonton by 2026.

Government of Alberta

The table below summarizes some of the initiatives the Government of Alberta funds and is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all investments into homelessness-related services. For instance, Income Support (including Emergency benefits, employment supports and rental supplements), Health Services, and Mental Health and Addiction services are funded by the provincial government and also support Albertans at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The Government of Alberta funds a range of initiatives to address homelessness, focusing on affordable housing, emergency supports and community-based services. Most notably over the last year, there has been an increased investment in emergency shelter supply and diversity, including activating the Navigation and Support Centre. Through correspondence between Administration and the Government of Alberta, the ministry of Mental Health and Addiction’s will spend \$210.6 million over a three-year period⁶, delivering mental health and addictions programs and services in the Edmonton zone. In addition, homelessness prevention is a priority for FCSS funding allocations.

For the year of 2024-25, projected spending on homelessness-related services provided by the Government of Alberta is broken down below. Note that this information does not include details from the Government of Alberta’s Budget 2025, which was announced after this report was completed.

GoA Homelessness Funding*	Provincial Funding (\$000s)
Program Description	2024-2025 Projected Spending
Emergency Shelter Operations	\$42,500

⁶ Based on the 2024-2027 Alberta Budget

Attachment 2

Housing Supports for People Experiencing Homelessness (Homeward Trust)	\$41,300
Encampment Clean-Up	\$4,500
Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)	\$23,300
Elder Abuse Shelter	\$878
Affordable Housing Partnership Program (AHPP) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Supportive housing development (\$10.58 million)- other housing providers (\$44.19 million)	\$54,770
Edmonton and Area Fetal Alcohol Network Society (EFAN)	\$5,500
Integrated Community Safety and Specialized Policing	\$1,780

*Data in this table is derived from correspondence between the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton, December 11, 2024.