

105 Street Day Services - Alternative Strategies

City Council
May 3, 2021

Background



Photo credit: Pieter de Vos

Evaluating Locations

100+ locations
evaluated against
criteria to determine
fit for 24/7, daytime
or COVID-19 isolation

Physical Building Requirements			
• Segregated spaces for infection control - living and office support	Green	Yellow	Green
• Large congregate space for surge capacity	Green	Yellow	Yellow
• Secure locations for pharmaceuticals	Green	Yellow	Red
• Adequate number of washroom facilities	Green	Yellow	Yellow
• Showers on site	Green	Yellow	Yellow
• Laundry facilities on site	Green	Yellow	Yellow
• External to building service capability	Green	Green	Yellow
• Low community impact	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Availability			
• Probability of getting space operational by May 1st	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
• Open ended occupancy of space	Green	Green	Red
Costs			
• Low estimated fit-up costs	Green	Yellow	Red

Current State

In spite of the efforts undertaken to date:

- **Physical distancing requirements continue to impact capacity at homeless serving agencies**
- **Limited or no capacity at publicly accessible locations** (eg: libraries)
- **Third wave / variants pose a serious risk** - smaller congregate spaces as opposed to larger gathering locations
- **Need for housing continues to grow** - over 2100 people on the Homeward Trust By Name List and over 5000 unique individuals have accessed Tipinawaw
- **System fatigue** - agencies have been on the front lines since the beginning of the pandemic navigating people's needs, COVID-19 waves, uncertain funding, and the rapid opening and closing of multiple sites

Pandemic Homelessness Response: Summer 2021

May - November 2021

- **Dispersed model** - transition to smaller congregate spaces spread across the city for 24/7 shelter and day services (City Building: Spectrum)
- **Additional transitional housing spaces in hotels** - safer from variants, more dignity and privacy and allows better engagement towards permanent housing outcomes
- **City supports additional day services spaces** - expanding services at existing locations (Bissell Centre and Boyle Street Community Centre)

Daytime Service Options

- **Mustard Seed 96 Street Building** - Potential for the space to be re-activated (Augmented Space/Service)
- **Hope Mission at Spectrum** - Additional support on day service programming (Augmented Space/Service)
- **Faith based organizations** to assist with community space and meals (Augmented Space/Service)
- **Boyle Street Services overdose response** including mobile service delivery and outreach services from additional locations (Mobile)
- **Other alternatives or some combination of the above**

Administration will be conducting more in depth feasibility analyses of the opportunities identified and will continue to pursue alternative spaces and service delivery models.

Community Support and Public Engagement

- The City will continue to ensure the safety of vulnerable people during the pandemic by working with GoA, AHS and partner agencies to make space and services available
- These services are key to preventing large encampments and addressing public health concerns
- Will inform community of plans and address temporary community impacts
- Good Neighbour Commitment
- Single point of contact for the public: homelessresponse@edmonton.ca

Measures and Tracking

- Funded agencies will be required to report on activity measures and outcome measures
- Results from tracking will inform service delivery and we will work with our agency partners to allow flexibility to adapt and ensure individuals needs are met
- These measures will be aggregated and shared with council on a bi-weekly basis

Thank you. Questions?