

Before providing guidelines to assist you with completing your *Community Plan 2007-2009*, let's take a closer look at the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and how this new direction will affect the community planning process.

What is the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)?

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) will have a direct impact on the planning process. The HPS is aimed at the prevention and the reduction of homelessness across Canada. The HPS replaces the National Homelessness Initiative (NHI), which expired on March 31, 2007. The new Strategy, which began on April 1, 2007, provides \$269.6 million of funding over two years. Supporting a "housing-first" approach, the HPS seeks to "*prevent and reduce homelessness by helping to establish the structures and supports needed to move homeless individuals and at-risk individuals towards self-sufficiency and full participation in Canadian society.*"

Building on the work begun under the NHI, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy will assist communities in their efforts to link housing and support services, target investments towards more transitional and supportive housing as opposed to emergency measures, and to identify and develop support services which respond directly to the needs of clients. *The five pillars of the HPS* which promote these objectives are as follows:

1. Preventing and reducing homelessness
2. Ensuring tangible and direct response to client needs and measurable outcomes for clients
3. Engaging provincial/territorial/other government departments and communities
4. Supporting preventative and longer-term housing solutions
5. Strengthening accountability and measurement

The HPS is delivered through *three main program initiatives*:

1. the Homelessness Partnership Initiative (HPI);
2. the Homelessness Accountability Network (HAN); and
3. the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative.

For details on these initiatives, please visit the Homelessness Partnering Strategy website at www.homelessness.gc.ca.

HPS Funding Considerations

The HPS funds activities such as:

- capital projects including the construction and renovation of facilities;
- the design and delivery of support services;
- prevention activities such as eviction prevention;
- improving the service delivery networks within a community including training front-line staff on homelessness-related activities;
- community planning;
- other activities directly related to the objectives of the HPS.

In order to support our ability, both at the community level and nationally, to report on the progress that has been made in preventing and reducing homelessness, those projects which provide *direct services to individuals relating to housing placement or preventing housing loss*, are required to report on the effectiveness of these placements or interventions by conducting and reporting on three month follow-ups with clients. To facilitate the reporting process which will be part of the 2009 Community Plan Assessment, a series of indicators to measure progress have been developed by the HP Secretariat and have been integrated into the community planning documents and the Project Results Reporting Forms for all HPS-funded projects.

In order to ensure that the bulk of the HPS funds provided to the HPI – Designated Communities are directed towards longer-term solutions, ***the first funding target applies at the national level:***

1. 65% of all HPI funding is to be directed to transitional, supportive and other forms of long-term housing facilities and services.

The second target applies at the community level and will directly affect the HPS-funded priorities in your Community Plan:

2. a maximum of 25% of a community’s HPI allocation is to be directed to capital investments in emergency facilities. (Note that if there is a demonstrable need, a community may be exempted on a case-by-case basis.)

Let’s Get Started: How this community planning process works

The *Community Plan 2007-2009* has been divided into three main documents: the *Community Plan Data Tools*, the *Community Plan Framework* and finally, the *Reference Guide* which provides the necessary instructions and guidelines for filling out the *Data Tools* and the *Framework*. All three documents begin with the Community Profile. The issues, priorities, objectives, outcomes and implementation strategies which follow are divided into three activity areas: the Continuum of Housing and Supports; Knowledge and Communication; and Community Development.